

Be informed about
ASTHMA
Are you one of the 2 million people who suffer from this distressing, disabling disease? Is your child a victim?
Send for free information and Asthma News. Please enclose 12p stamp.
Hugh Foulds, ASTHMA SOCIETY (UK), St. Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH.

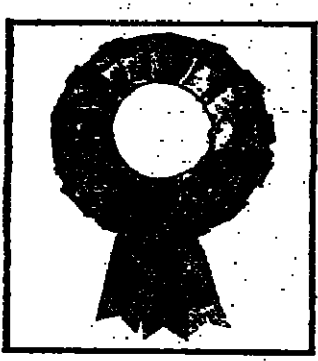
THE GUARDIAN

Printed in London and Manchester

Thursday May 23 1985 25p

Fine British Clothes
for men...
centaur
...ELEGANTLY STYLED.
(0532) 432455

As Tories slump, Whitelaw says success depends on backing PM



**GUARDIAN
MARPLAN
INDEX**

**Alliance
shares
6pc lead
with
Labour**

By Martin Linton

The Alliance has sprung into a joint lead with the Labour Party at 33 per cent in the Guardian-Marplan index for May, with the Conservatives floundering at 20 per cent, their lowest level for three years.

In a single month the Alliance has leapt from 25 to 33 per cent, overtaking the Government and catching up with Labour to reach its highest figure in the opinion polls since 1981, soon after its foundation.

NOW Apr Mar Feb Jan

Con	23	33	36	38	44
Lab	35	33	36	35	28
Alliance	35	28	27	26	26
Other	1	1	1	1	2

The poll implies an election result in which Labour would be the biggest party, but only hold the balance of power but would begin to break through at the expense of the Conservatives.

The figures appear to confirm the Gallup poll published in the Daily Telegraph last week and taken over roughly the same period, which put Labour at 34, the Alliance at 33, and the Conservatives at 30 per cent.

NOW Apr Mar Feb Jan

Thatcher	25	28	31	31	34
Kinnock	20	24	21	20	19
Steel	16	16	12	14	13
Owen	16	13	16	15	13

These figures will be particularly depressing for Mrs Thatcher, whose popularity is now at its lowest ebb since the Falklands, as is that of her party. The polling was completed on May 13, so it will not reflect the launch of the new Conservative Centre Forward group on May 14, but it does indicate the pressure for a change of course.

Conservative MPs are only too keenly aware that it is their seats which become vulnerable when the Alliance begins to climb up the opinion poll. The critical level at which Tory seats would begin to fall in large numbers to the Alliance is about 35 per cent.

Nothing could illustrate this better than the constituency of Brecon and Radnor, where a by-election is due. The Conservative majority of 5,794 would normally make it a safe seat, but this opinion poll would imply a very close result, with a turn to back page, col. 7.

Thatcher gives no quarter to 'fainthearts'

By James Naughtie, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday dismissed her Tory critics as fainthearts and sounded a defiant rallying call of renewed support for her economic policies and shortly afterwards faced new evidence of the Government's sinking popularity.

Mrs Thatcher told the annual Conservative women's conference that there were "fairweather friends" urging her to consolidate the gains made so far instead of pursuing radical reform. Pulling about her the mantle of the Iron Lady, she said her answer was no.

It was a direct response to the efforts of Mr Francis Pym and others to rally support for an alternative economic policy. Mrs Thatcher's loyalists it was quickly followed by the latest Marplan poll taken for the Guardian, showing the Conservative dipping down to 20 per cent, while Labour and an apparently buoyant SDP/Liberal Alliance both at 35 per cent.

For Tory MPs at Westminster last night the figures painted a sombre background for Mrs Thatcher's show of defiance. Despite Mrs Pym's remarks, the Government's relationship with its own supporters and the evident refusal of Mrs Thatcher and a group of senior ministers to contemplate any substantial change in economic policy.

Her message to the Conservative women could not have been clearer.

"Some of our critics and fair weather friends would like us to slow down a bit, to take stock, even to let a few sleeping dogs lie. Consolidate, they say, forget about radical reform. No! No! No! There are still too many challenges to face. Some of them present us with immense difficulties. But this Government has never run away from long-term problems and we are not going to start now."

She mounted a vigorous defence of her economic strategy and presented it in a familiar light—as the test of the Government's commitment. If it was abandoned now the Tories would not be worth re-electing. "We shall press forward with zest, determination and confidence. This Government has work to do."

Mrs Thatcher made clear that the course was irrevocably set, but she was careful, in the course of a lengthy speech, to open what amounts to a new Government campaign to defend levels of spending against charges that they have been miserly and consumed by the need for cuts.

health service, education, and even the arts. Lord Whitelaw appeared before the Tory women as well as Mrs Thatcher and responded to criticism of the Government's public relations with a plea for more support for the prime minister. In a remarkably frank appeal he said: "We shall never win the next election unless we are prepared to stand up for our leader and give her the support she so deserves."

The atmosphere of defiance was intensified by a speech from the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to a small business conference in Surrey. "People say there is no free market solution to unemployment. Don't you believe it. Private industry will respond as long as it is allowed to. As long as the economy is not choked by regulations and taxes, the Government doesn't pre-empt resources by uncontrolled borrowing and spending."

It was a pugnacious defence of public spending controls and deregulation as the engine of growth, and Mrs Thatcher was in a similar mood in her response to her party critics. She did not mention Mr Pym by name, but her target was clear.

She was a radical, not a consolidator, still convinced that a policy of "household money" and deregulation was the answer to Britain's ills. She strongly defended the Government's efforts to increase employment and dismissed contemptuously the notion that the Government had failed to get its message across. The conclusion is that great stress should be laid on areas in which the Government has increased spending. Yesterday Mrs Thatcher singled out the

Joint £480m bid for Debenhams takeover

By Andrew Cornallius

Burton Group and Habitat-Mothercare yesterday joined forces to mount a near £480 million takeover bid for Debenhams, the department stores group which owns the Hamleys toy store and Harvey Nichols.

If the bid succeeds the 67-strong Debenhams chain will be revamped to bring a new store-within-a-store concept to British High Streets.

City Notebook, page 22; Burton way, page 23

and property group, and the American stores group, Sears Roebuck. The tantalising prospect of a huge City takeover battle was enough to send Debenhams shares soaring by 30p to 32p. Six weeks ago they traded at 22p. Mr Ralph Halpern, the Burton chairman, had indicated that he would not bid for Debenhams at the recent high price levels. But yesterday he defended the phenomenal growth of the Habitat group, enthused about bringing Galleria, or store-within-a-store shopping to Britain. Galleria shopping is common on the Continent and in the United States. Burton and Habitat-Mothercare would bring together their own stores like Mothercare, Richard Shops and Burton into one shopping complex along a new High Street "names" they plan to develop and existing retailers who would be invited to take space. Harris, Queensway, which already supplies furnishings and electrical goods to Debenhams, has ruled itself out of the rival bidders, but would be a natural partner in such a development.

The takeover attempt is an attractive deal for Sir Terence. Mr Bar Thornton, chairman of Debenhams, is keeping open his plan to arrange a £600 million management buyout to maintain the group's independence. Last night he said: "It is a definite option, but it is premature to say anything about it now."

Meanwhile Mr Halpern, who rose from stores trainee to head the Burton group, and Sir Terence Conran, who has masterminded the phenomenal growth of the Habitat group, enthused about bringing Galleria, or store-within-a-store shopping to Britain. Galleria shopping is common on the Continent and in the United States. Burton and Habitat-Mothercare would bring together their own stores like Mothercare, Richard Shops and Burton into one shopping complex along a new High Street "names" they plan to develop and existing retailers who would be invited to take space. Harris, Queensway, which already supplies furnishings and electrical goods to Debenhams, has ruled itself out of the rival bidders, but would be a natural partner in such a development.

Bob Thornton—alternative option

Fifty die in Beirut inferno



RESCUE PATH: A volunteer stretcher bearer picking his way through the wreckage of cars after the Beirut bomb

From Patrick Baz, Reuters Correspondent

POLICE drove mothers screaming for their children back from blazing buildings after a huge car bomb had devastated a residential area of Christian East Beirut yesterday. Radio reports and witnesses said that more than 50 people were killed and 100 injured.

The car, with an estimated 450lb of TNT, blew up as it drove through the middle-class Shun al-Fil district. Residents said the car apparently went up by accident.

The blast ripped walls off apartment blocks, started fires, burned motorists alive in their cars and crushed pedestrians. It shook the city as concentrated shelling hit Shiite Muslim areas close to Palestinian camps wracked by three days of fighting between Shiites and Palestinians in which hundreds have

been reported killed or wounded.

Two people were killed and eight wounded in the shelling, which hit the precincts of Beirut airport and thudded into the beach of a luxury hotel.

It was the worst car bomb to hit East Beirut, and the first since a suicide attack

US helpless in near hostage crisis. Call for release of Jewish terror group, page 7

on a US embassy annex just north of the city last September killed about 12 people.

The explosion, at 2 pm local time, came as children were returning from school. Witnesses said that at least 15 children were killed in an incident over lunch in which

dead children from shattered buildings.

Amid scenes of pandemonium I saw shrieking mothers being driven back through the smoke of blazing buildings and cars by policemen who shot into the air to clear space for rescuers.

Panic increased after the blast when several artillery shells or long-range rockets exploded nearby as rescue work went on.

Ambulances had to dodge shells falling on other Christian districts to get the dead and wounded to hospitals spread through East Beirut.

The bomb blew away balconies and windows of nine nearby buildings and destroyed dozens of cars in the street.

I saw the bodies of motorists sitting in burned-out cars still too hot for rescue workers to touch. More bodies were believed to be trapped

under the rubble of walls blown from buildings.

The bomb dug a crater 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep in the centre of the road, turning the peaceful area into an inferno of smoke, flames and rubble.

David Hirst writes: Independent reports last night said that Shiite Amal militia had overrun much of the Sabra and Chatilla Palestinian camps south of the city and that only last pockets of resistance were holding out. The Shiites were also said to have fought their way deep into the third camp Bourj al-Barajneh.

At least five people died and about 70 more were wounded when shells struck a densely populated Shiite West Beirut suburb near the coast road to the airport some distance from the camps. The shells came from Druze-controlled hills above Beirut.

Asian defendant 'beaten at Old Bailey'

By David Rose

The Old Bailey trial of seven Asians and three whites accused of taking part in a series of violent confrontations in Newham, east London, was expected to be announced today that one of the Asians had been beaten up by prison officers during the lunch adjournment.

Farvaz Kahn, aged 17, was later taken to hospital. His counsel, Mr Ian McDonald, said that Kahn had been the object of an unprovoked attack of a serious kind after refusing to eat a pork pie because of his religion.

Kahn, who denies charges of

affray, possessing an offensive weapon and criminal damage, appeared in the dock after a badly swollen face and two black eyes.

Mr McDonald rose and said that his client had been in "perfect" condition before the adjournment. "There was an incident over lunch in which he has been badly beaten by the prison officers looking after him."

Judge Neil Dennison interrupted, saying that this was not a statement of fact. Mr McDonald said: "This statement is fact."

After a temporary adjournment, granted to allow Mr Mc-

Donald to find out whether Kahn was still capable of following the case, he gave further details of the alleged incident in the absence of the jury.

"He was subjected to an unprovoked attack of a serious kind during the luncheon adjournment. The question arises over whether he should eat a pork pie or a meat pie or something vegetarian which because of his religion he would normally have."

"During the course of an unprovoked attack there was also racialist abuse. If, in the face of what has happened, prison officers cannot be trusted to look after a defen-

dant of Asian origin during a trial which is about confrontation between white and Asian youths, and where racial issues are to the fore, then we are in a very serious situation which obviously everyone wants to avoid."

Mr McDonald said that he and Kahn's solicitor had been present at the Old Bailey throughout the lunch break but when Kahn had asked to see them, he was told that his lawyers were not in the building.

He asked the judge to waive the normal rule whereby defendants on bail are kept in custody over lunch because Turn to back page, col. 4

Stolport set for take-off

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Permission for the development of a mini airport in the heart of London's docklands is expected to be announced today by the Commons by the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin.

Approval for the £15 million project, known as Stolport, would bring to an end almost 21 years of controversy. Stolport, which stands for short take-off and landing, will enable airlines to fly special Canadian-built aircraft to European cities like Paris and Brussels from a site only six miles from the centre of London.

However, Mr Jenkin is likely to impose strict rules on noise and frequency of flights. Three small regional airlines — Brynmor, Manx and Jersey European — are seeking approval to begin services. The new airport will be built on the derelict site of the Royal Docks.

Hateley spares blushes

A goal by Mark Hateley in the second half saved England's World Cup soccer blushes in their qualifying match in Helsinki yesterday.

The Finns, most of them part-timers, had taken a fifth minute lead but although they had to settle for a draw the result was greeted with ecstasy by the crowd. England remain on course for qualification.

The FA decided that Kevin Moran, the Manchester United player sent off during Saturday's FA Cup final, should be given a winner's medal. Moran had not been given one after the match.

At Lord's the Australian cricket captain Allan Border hit his third century of the tour as the Australians reached 377 for 5 declared on the opening day of their match against the M.C.C. Simon O'Donnell, another tourist reached his century while down in Taunton Ian Botham, playing for Somerset against Hampshire, raced to his second 76 ball hundred of the season and went on to make 149.

It was announced that the former England opening batsman Geoffrey Boycott had received a record £147,954.23p from his testimonial.

Reports, pages 25-27



...the rest is history

If we forget the past, are we condemned to repeat it? History is not just 'things that happen', it is the record of our understanding of those things. Alan Bullock's classic 1952 biography of Hitler did much to dispel the idea that Nazism was no more than an abstract evil, but rather was part of history with recognizable and thus preventable causes.

In The THES this week, Lord Bullock asks: is history still relevant? or are we doomed to repeat all our past mistakes?

ALSO THIS WEEK.

- ★ The Green Paper: full analysis of the government's long-awaited plans for higher education
- ★ Lawrence Freedman on two new studies of the 'intelligence community'

The Times Higher Education Supplement

On sale at newsagents, every week



"I hate these dinner parties where people boost about rating SDP and then get all shirty when you ask them what."

INSIDE

Arts Reviews	10, 11
Books	20
Business and Finance	22-24
Crosswords	29, 30
Futures	43-48
Guardian Women	21
Home News	2-4, 30
Letters	6-8
Overseas News	6-8
Politics	25-27
Sports News	25-27
TV & RADIO	28
ENTERTAINMENTS	28
PERSONAL	29

The weather

SHOWERS and some bright intervals. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	26 p	100 p
Belgium	26 p	100 p
Denmark	9.00 p	2.00 p
France	8.00 p	1.00 p
Germany	3.50 p	1.00 p

Ireland's 'open' prison

From Joe Joyce, in Dublin

Several inmates of a low security prison in the Irish Republic have been keeping their hands in while serving their sentences — and picking up something to while away the hours of captivity.

A search of the prison, Loughan House in Co. Cavan, recently revealed an empty bottle of Blue Nun wine, which had been full when it disappeared from the home of the local parish priest. The search also revealed a radio which had been taken from another local house.

The inmates are blamed for a mini crime wave at the rural area around the prison. Authorities believe that three prisoners were involved in nocturnal

escapes and that they burgled two local houses.

There is greater concern at the unofficial departure rate. As many as 25 prisoners fled the prison—originally designed as a centre for young offenders but now holding adults—in one recent month.

Mr John Wilson, an opposition deputy from Cavan, has told the Dail that local houses had been broken into as well as a presbytery and health centre.

The justice minister, Mr Michael Noonan, said that fences around the prison were being raised and extra officers assigned to late-night duties. The incidents at the prison are the latest embarrassment for the Irish authorities, who are trying to deal with an in-

crease of 50 per cent in the prison population in recent months. Part of the cause was an upsurge in joy-riding in the suburbs of Dublin, for which many young people have recently been imprisoned.

One solution to the accommodation problem has been the reopening of a 19th-century penal settlement on Spike Island in Cork harbour. Taken back from the Irish navy to serve again as a prison, it was immediately christened Ireland's Alcatraz.

But it does not share Alcatraz's escape-proof status. Six men scaled its 30-foot walls and escaped on an improvised raft last weekend. Five were recaptured in the surrounding countryside but the sixth is still at large.

Print union's 'secret blacking' effort

By Patrick Wintour
Labour Editor

The National Graphical Association print union has been involved in an orchestrated and clandestine campaign to encourage its members to black the Wolverhampton Express and Star newspaper in defiance of a High Court injunction. Birmingham Crown Court heard yesterday.

The Wolverhampton Express and Star, the Shropshire Star and an associated company, Precision Colour Printing, are seeking the sequestration of the NGA's assets for contempt of court.

More than 60 NGA members have been dismissed by the Express and Star for refusing to co-operate with the introduction of new technology, which eliminates many of the NGA compositionists' jobs.

Mr Justice Hodgson issued an injunction ordering the NGA not to take secondary action in March.

Mr James Goudie QC, representing the NGA, told Mr Justice Skidmore that any blacking had been the responsibility of branches of the union, for which the national union was not responsible.

He said the national union had sincerely complied with the injunction by withdrawing its initial blacking instruction and repudiating the action of any national or regional official who might inadvertently have breached the injunction.

"Any suggestion that the blacking has been engineered centrally behind the scenes is pure speculation", he said.

The case raises legal questions about the extent to which a national union is liable for unlawful action by local officials, who are not its employees, and how a court can determine whether a union is defying a court injunction by encouraging unlawful action on what was described yesterday as "a nod-and-wink basis".

Mr Malcolm Lee, QC, representing the companies said: "The union was involved in a very skilful and coordinated campaign, necessarily conducted in a clandestine way, in an effort to avoid liability in an effort to appear to be complying with the orders of the court when it was not so complying."

The contention that the blacking was not co-ordinated centrally defied belief, he said, citing four examples of continued blacking.

He said that on April 16 four employees at West Midlands Print Services were encouraged by the West Midlands branch secretary, Mr Peter Harris, to black the regional newspaper, to take £160 a week to withdraw their labour.

At the Alan Cooley print works, Tonbridge, on April 26, the local branch secretary, Mr Raymond Allen, instructed NGA members not to handle a magazine advertisement for Precision Colour Printing.

At North Wales Newspapers Limited, Oswestry, the court heard that on April 12 Mr Christopher Harding, a national NGA official, addressed a meeting where the chapel was deciding whether to black PCP.

In an affidavit Mr Harding apologised to the court if his presence at the meeting had breached a court order. He admitted that he had not tried to dissuade the chapel from its blacking action.

He said: "I am certain that I did not say that the blacking should be imposed."

Mr Lee said: "By remaining silent when the decision was taken and by not pointing out that the union could not endorse any blacking action, he was lending tacit support to what the men were doing."

At the same print works two other national branch secretaries addressed a further chapel meeting on April 22, the court heard.

Mr Roger Cooper, an overseer subpoenaed by the plaintiff, said one of the two officials had said the blacking was intended to bring pressure on the Express and Star.

At the meeting, Mr Cooper alleged, the local branch secretary, Mr Philip Morgan, said he had a nod and a wink from the national union that if the blacking continued and the notice of the withdrawal of the blacking instruction was not passed to the chapel nothing would be said.

The court was told that any payment to the four NGA members at West Midlands Print Services came from local funds.

The case continues today.

Sackings will stand, MacGregor tells MPs

By Keith Harper
Labour Editor

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, last night rejected suggestions that the NCB should review its policy towards miners sacked during the recent coal dispute.

But during a session of close questioning by members of the House of Commons select committee on employment, he agreed that the industry's tribunal procedure could still be used to examine outstanding cases among the 671 miners who have not been reinstated.

The questioning by committee members indicated that they were not happy at the way the NCB had handled the dismissal of miners through offences committed during the strike.

Mr MacGregor admitted that

under normal circumstances a dismissed miner would have been given union representation when his case was presented to management.

Dealing with allegations that the board had been inconsistent in dealing with individual cases, Mr MacGregor said that the only major inconsistency was that some areas had been more lenient than others.

Mr MacGregor argued that if normal circumstances had applied dismissed miners would be given the right of appeal. He did not accept the proposition from Mr John Gort, Conservative MP for Hendon North, that there had been disparity in the way areas had been operated.

At one point, the NCB chairman appeared to relent and accept that some appeals ma-

chinery might be considered by the board. But Mr Kevin Hunt, the board's head of industrial relations, said later that it was inappropriate to use existing procedures to settle problems caused by miners who had been dismissed for serious offences during the dispute.

The NCB's continuing tough line did not end general favour with the committee and ran counter to the evidence produced earlier yesterday by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers.

They proposed an independent umpire to adjudicate on the miners still not reinstated, but gave up hope of a general amnesty.

Mr Peter Heathfield, the NUM general secretary, conceded in answer to questions

that a general amnesty for all miners was no longer possible.

The NUM President, Mr Arthur Scargill, was stopped at one point by Mr Ron Leighton, the committee's chairman, for personal remarks about Mr MacGregor.

Mr Leighton said that the committee was only considering narrow issues of whether the NCB had acted fairly, justly and equitably.

Mr Scargill said that Mr MacGregor had made clear his true feelings towards sacked miners when he said in March: "People are now discovering the price of insubordination and insurrection. And, by the way, we are going to make it stick."

The NUM president accused the NCB of using arrest, regardless of conviction or acquittal, during the strike as an excuse for dismissing NUM members.

Only a small number of the miners who had not been reinstated fell victim to violence or vandalism. The NUM wished to emphasise that it would continue to fight for all dismissed miners.

"If a person has been convicted of an offence by the court that person has already paid a penalty to society and should not be punished twice for the same offence."

Mr Scargill claimed that dismissal had been ordered with discrimination on a plant, social, while striking miners in more militant areas had suffered working pit men involved in the same offence had kept their jobs.

The policy followed by Mr MacGregor and the NCB is apparently to dismiss from industry men involved actively

in the fight to save pits and jobs.

Mr Scargill maintained that many cases were trivial. Some areas, such as South Wales, had reinstated most men, but those in Scotland and Kent were being made to suffer.

Mr Scargill insisted that only 8 per cent of crimes resulting in dismissal fell inside the board's criteria of "serious offences."

The NUM is particularly aggrieved about the situation in Scotland, where the NCB area director has adopted an unnecessarily tough line.

Mr Eric Clarke, the NUM's Scottish general secretary, said that 80 per cent of the cases there related to minor offences.

Coal conversion gives NCB new opportunities

By John Hooper,
Energy Correspondent

The Government yesterday gave the go-ahead for Kilroot power station in Northern Ireland to be converted from oil to coal.

The conversion will increase the Northern Ireland Electricity Service's demand for coal by some 800,000 tons a year.

An increase in orders on this scale could extend the life of Scottish mines, which are among the most vulnerable to closure.

However, it is not yet certain that the coal for Kilroot will come from anywhere in Britain. A large part of Northern Ireland's domestic and industrial demand for coal is already met from abroad.

The Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, said yesterday that "the NCB is well placed

to secure the contract and negotiations are at an advanced stage." The Coal Board's commercial director, Mr Malcolm Edwards, said he was very hopeful of clinching the deal.

The conversion is expected to produce savings of some £30 million a year.

Kilroot, near Belfast, was commissioned in the 1960s when oil was cheaper than coal and appeared likely to remain so.

But in contrast to the situation on the mainland almost 80 per cent of Northern Ireland's electricity generating capacity is still oil-fired.

One result is that the ageing coal-fired station in West Belfast, which was built to cope only with peak demand, has to be run flat out to provide the city's basic requirements as cheaply as possible.

But in spite of this total electricity costs in the province are about 30 per cent higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom and prices are only kept level with those on the mainland by means of a government subsidy.

Finding miners new jobs for old

Peter Hetherington
reports on the NCB's help for mining communities

SEVEN months ago, Michael Ralton left Solgirth Colliery in Scotland with a generous redundancy payment.

He launched a small parcels delivery service and became the first miner in Britain to receive help from the National Coal Board's new job creation subsidiary.

This month, the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, proudly told the Commons that the board's offshoot — NCB Enterprise Limited — had now generated 300 jobs in mining communities.

It expected to produce another 400 soon, while a further 1,000 jobs looked like being in the pipeline.

About 8,000 men have left the industry since the collapse of the strike almost three months ago. Thousands more will soon depart, and 12 pits have already been earmarked for closure.

But the bold pronouncements of Mr Walker and his colleagues, designed to upstage the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill, have not been tempered with realism.

NCB Enterprise, with a budget of £10 million, may indeed stimulate latent — and uncharacteristic — entrepreneurial zeal of some men.

But it cannot help to compensate for the mounting job losses in Scotland, the North-east, South Wales and South Yorkshire, where the board could announce up to 2,000 more redundancies tomorrow.

Mr Ralton, a former underground engineer who now operates three 35 cwt vans, "but those advantages are bought at a heavy cost: do not specialise in mathematics and science than their counterparts abroad."

Comparing England and Germany, the institute's quarterly review says the strengths of English grammar and public schools are much admired abroad.

But the bulk of pupils who do not specialise in mathematics and science than their counterparts abroad.

So far, NCB Enterprise has shelled out £1 million to pit men and companies in local communities who have launched ventures ranging from chemical cleaning products to tea rooms.

Some have become grocers, newsagents, bakers, confectioners and ice cream salesmen.

But the subsidiary, still in its infancy, is becoming more ambitious. Working alongside county council job creation trusts, it is now backing two larger "secret ventures" — one a company to produce and sell local produce, the other a company to produce and sell local produce.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought in by Labour.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought in by Labour.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."



EXPERIMENTAL LOOK: Sir Keith Joseph during the opening of new science laboratories at the European School, Culham, Berkshire. Picture by Frank Martin

Decline 'linked to poor schools'

By Peter Rodgers,
City Editor

Britain's economy may be falling behind because schools are bad at educating average and below average children rather than because of any deficiencies at the top end of the educational scale, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The institute's quarterly review says the strengths of English grammar and public schools are much admired abroad.

But the bulk of pupils who do not specialise in mathematics and science than their counterparts abroad.

So far, NCB Enterprise has shelled out £1 million to pit men and companies in local communities who have launched ventures ranging from chemical cleaning products to tea rooms.

Some have become grocers, newsagents, bakers, confectioners and ice cream salesmen.

But the subsidiary, still in its infancy, is becoming more ambitious. Working alongside county council job creation trusts, it is now backing two larger "secret ventures" — one a company to produce and sell local produce, the other a company to produce and sell local produce.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought in by Labour.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought in by Labour.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought in by Labour.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut "it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority."

The institute links problems of economic decline, such as fewer apprentices hired by manufacturing industry.

A significant number of firms surveyed by the Confederation of British Industry find their output limited because they cannot find skilled labour.

The institute is one of the best known economic forecasting bodies, although its Keynesian views have rubbed it of influence with the Government.

The comparison between England and Germany, in a paper by S. V. Prads and Karin Wagner, quotes Sir James Dewart in a 1902 address to the British Association as saying: "It is in the abundance of men and ordinary, plodding ability, thoroughly trained and methodically directed, that Germany in English education and sym-

has so commanding an advantage."

Now the scope for unskilled labour has been cut by automation, "the need to raise the level of competence of those of average and below average ability has acquired an even greater urgency."

The institute says that the immediate requirement is to raise the numerical skills of the majority of school pupils and encourage practical education, with more objective testing of pupils and national agreement on core standards.

Extra spending on changes such as more technical and vocational training in employment schemes "should be given highest priority, even though it may take 10 years or more to harvest the fruits of such an investment."

Jobsless forecast, page 23

has so commanding an advantage."

Now the scope for unskilled labour has been cut by automation, "the need to raise the level of competence of those of average and below average ability has acquired an even greater urgency."

The institute says that the immediate requirement is to raise the numerical skills of the majority of school pupils and encourage practical education, with more objective testing of pupils and national agreement on core standards.

Extra spending on changes such as more technical and vocational training in employment schemes "should be given highest priority, even though it may take 10 years or more to harvest the fruits of such an investment."

Jobsless forecast, page 23

has so commanding an advantage."

Now the scope for unskilled labour has been cut by automation, "the need to raise the level of competence of those of average and below average ability has acquired an even greater urgency."

The institute says that the immediate requirement is to raise the numerical skills of the majority of school pupils and encourage practical education, with more objective testing of pupils and national agreement on core standards.

Extra spending on changes such as more technical and vocational training in employment schemes "should be given highest priority, even though it may take 10 years or more to harvest the fruits of such an investment."

Jobsless forecast, page 23

has so commanding an advantage."

Now the scope for unskilled labour has been cut by automation, "the need to raise the level of competence of those of average and below average ability has acquired an even greater urgency."

The institute says that the immediate requirement is to raise the numerical skills of the majority of school pupils and encourage practical education, with more objective testing of pupils and national agreement on core standards.

Holloway concern at psychiatric wing

By Sarah Besley

Proposals put forward in March by staff at Holloway women's prison reveal deep concern at conditions in the psychiatric wing, CI.

Minutes of the staff meeting, chaired by the assistant governor, Miss Gillian Pereira, and bringing together representatives from the nursing staff and warders, doctors, psychiatrists and a probation officer, involved with CI, have been obtained by the Guardian.

They reveal uncertainties about the chain of command on the wing, and suggest that present facilities could be much improved. They also suggest a system of grading inmates according to how severely they are disturbed.

"Grading would be on an individual basis and not by location within the unit. The grade would change, depending on the behaviour. There would need to be a clear list of current gradings of the women. The characteristics necessary

for each grade would be decided by team discussion."

According to grade, privileges such as extra freedom within the unit would be allowed the women "consistent with security needs."

It was felt that the lack of freedom on the unit at present often prevented nursing staff from fully exercising their nursing skills.

Visiting doctors are felt to be "subordinate in management terms" to the senior medical officer or his delegate, but this is not really clear.

A clearly defined medical chain of command is essential."

Ms Marie Staunton, of the National Council for Civil Liberties — which together with Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, has been campaigning for CI to be closed and replaced with regional psychiatric units — said that the women's staff had "no realisation of how fundamental the problems are."

Most attention at the meeting had clearly been on provision of facilities like a Portakabin and a tumble drier.

"It is a typical reaction of an institution to a problem they cannot solve. They suggest a few cosmetic changes. What is worrying is the confusion shows about who actually runs CI — whether it is the doctors or the prison staff."

After the resignation of Mrs Prue Stevens, a teacher on the skills training unit (occupational therapy) on Tuesday, the labour MP Miss Jo Richardson will be raising the CI question in the Commons today.

Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, said it will investigate the cause of the outbreak which has now claimed 37 lives and consider the adequacy of measures taken by the Mid-Shropshire health authority.

The other members of the inquiry are professor Francis O'Grady, professor of microbiology at Nottingham University, and Mr Dan Hannah, chairman of Warrington district health authority. Two other members, a layman and an engineer, have still to be appointed because ministers have not found suitable candidates.

Legion team head named

By David Hencke,
Services Correspondent

Sir John Badenoch, chairman of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advising the Government on treating flu and whooping cough epidemics, is to head the inquiry into the Legionnaire's disease outbreak in Staffordshire.

The wide-ranging independent inquiry was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke the health minister, in a written parliamentary answer

to Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, said it will investigate the cause of the outbreak which has now claimed 37 lives and consider the adequacy of measures taken by the Mid-Shropshire health authority.

The other members of the inquiry are professor Francis O'Grady, professor of microbiology at Nottingham University, and Mr Dan Hannah, chairman of Warrington district health authority. Two other members, a layman and an engineer, have still to be appointed because ministers have not found suitable candidates.

The wide-ranging independent inquiry was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke the health minister, in a written parliamentary answer

to Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, said it will investigate the cause of the outbreak which has now claimed 37 lives and consider the adequacy of measures taken by the Mid-Shropshire health authority.

The other members of the inquiry are professor Francis O'Grady, professor of microbiology at Nottingham University, and Mr Dan Hannah, chairman of Warrington district health authority. Two other members, a layman and an engineer, have still to be appointed because ministers have not found suitable candidates.

The wide-ranging independent inquiry was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke the health minister, in a written parliamentary answer

to Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, said it will investigate the cause of the outbreak which has now claimed 37 lives and consider the adequacy of measures taken by the Mid-Shropshire health authority.

Argentina to take part in fishing talks

From John Eard
in Port Stanley

Britain proposes to include Argentina as a partner in multilateral talks involving several countries about fishing in the South Atlantic. It will be the first formal contact since the Berne diplomatic talks failed last year.

The plan was floated at a private meeting of elected Falklands councillors with the Foreign Office minister, Mr Timothy Renton.

The Islanders indicated they were "very reluctant" agreement with the strategy after Mr Renton spoke of the plan in

an interview with BBC external services. Calling the Falklands.

Asked if multilateral conservation talks would include Argentina, he said they would have to include all nations fishing in the area and all bordering countries. The British position was later confirmed unofficially.

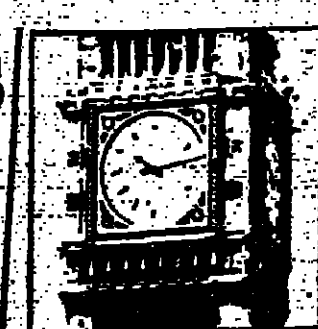
Mr John Cheek, one of the three politicians who regularly speak for the Falklands at yearly United Nations debates, said last night: "It was very reluctantly accepted as inevitable, because control of fishing is such an important issue for us that Argentina would have

to be consulted.

"I don't think any of us are happy about it. If there are any signs of Britain trying to bring the Falklands and Argentina more closely together in other ways through these talks — as has happened before in our history, with results that are well known it will be resisted. Feeling is still very strong."

A public meeting last year overwhelmingly rejected a suggestion of resumption of business relations with Argentina.

The multilateral strategy was outlined by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe,



David McKie

Mac gets knifed in a place of strife

THE Commons will get its chance in the autumn to debate the admission of the television cameras. Now that the Lords are daily gathering glory, now that even Mrs Thatcher has changed sides, they will probably agree to let them in.

A shame that it will have come too late to capture yesterday's proceedings of the Commons select committee on employment, which developed through the day into a rigorous and gripping courtroom drama as anything you will see on the box this year.

Before the court, flanked by officials, was the Coal Board chairman, Ian MacGregor. What the committee wanted to know was how the board had handled the miners' strike and who then got reinstated during the miners' strike and, thereafter, why there seems to be such astonishing discrepancies between areas like North Derbyshire (four in 10 taken back) and Scotland (no one taken back at all).

They had had Arthur Scargill, Peter Heathfield and Scottish NUM leader, Eric Clarke, to help them with their inquiries in the morning. "Discrimination on a blatant scale," Arthur called it — a dramatic, vindictive, ultimately counter-productive strategy.

This was a subdued Mr Scargill though, with little of the bounce and fight of the days when the strike still raged and Arthur was acknowledged king. There was the occasional nostalgic flash. "Your point of order," he

told a Tory MP who was trying to halt the flow "is unjustified. But the one open clash of the morning, with the Conservative MP for Banbury, Tony Baldry, was more the product of Mr Baldry's portentous district attorney manner than any provocation of Arthur's.

The afternoon, though, more than made up for the morning's languors. Mr MacGregor began by reiterating the NCB guidelines: no reinstatement of those guilty of severe violence, intimidation or vandalism; local discretion everywhere else. It would be wrong, he said, to impose a standard national policy: discretion was best exercised by those closest to the action.

As for Scotland, one reason why reinstatement was so low was the spate of letter, reinstatement offences like petty theft, which had led to sackings elsewhere, had not happened in Scotland. The Scots, he explained with a shrug and a smile, were more honest than the rest of the country.

Then the committee fell upon him. Gently at first with Tory backbencher, John Gort, troubled by the failure to invoke conciliation procedures normal in cases of dismissal. But these, said Mr MacGregor, had not been normal times. And in any case, those who felt aggrieved could still go to industrial tribunals and fewer than 100 of those sacked in Scotland had done so.

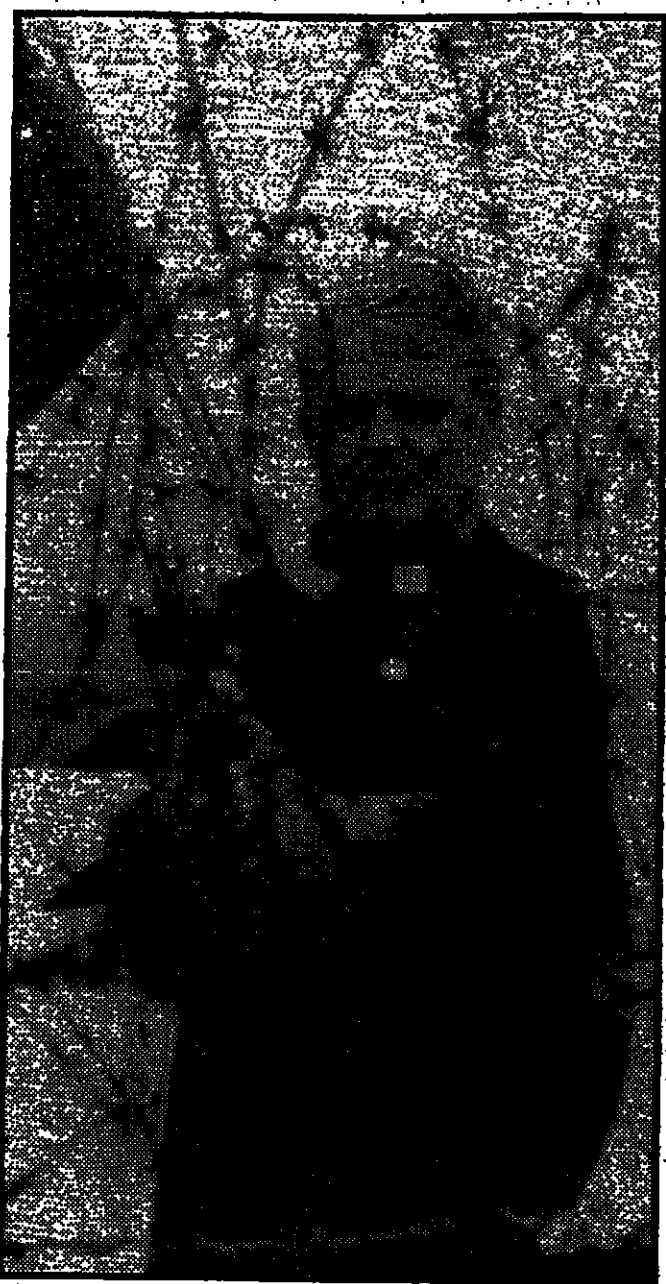
Then came the young Scottish Labour MP, Gordon Brown. In the morning he had been feeding helpful pastoral questions to the NUM team. Now he gave Mr MacGregor what must have been one of the roughest 20 minutes he had had to endure even in his last two troubled-packed years.

They hadn't used normal procedures in abnormal, strike-bound times; but why hadn't they used them in cases which had arisen since the strike was over? A long, fatal pause. "That," said Mr MacGregor, "is an interesting point."

He never recovered. More and more he had to turn to officials for urgent information. Aid. Greville Jenner (Lab, Leicester W) who is a real QC (Gordon Brown is only a reformed journalist) pitched in with a barrage of questions he knew the Coal Board chairman would not be able to answer. ("And please don't consult," he implored him). This was not just theatre: it was almost a theatre of cruelty.

The trouble was that Mr MacGregor could not see rescue even when it reared up in his face. One helpful soul asked him to comment on the fact that dismissals in Scotland had been lower in the strike year than in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones.

Mr MacGregor said that the cost of the ATRF was £220 million. The ATRF was £220 million. The ATRF was £2



Monsieur Bruce Kent (left) reading an appeal to servicemen and police. Retired Air Commodore Alastair Mackie (above), one of the campaigners, with two of those they seek to persuade. Pictures by Martin Argles

Group urges cruise guards to rebel

SERVICEMEN and Ministry of Defence police at the proposed cruise missile base at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, were urged yesterday by 22 anti-nuclear campaigners to disobey their orders.

The campaigners handed in a letter at the base which claimed that cruise missiles are illegal. The campaign for Nuclear Disarmament solicitor, Mr Brian Raymond, said that it was possible that the 22 signatories to the letter could be charged with incitement to disaffection.

Monsieur Bruce Kent, CND's general

secretary, read from the letter yesterday to Ministry of Defence police patrolling inside the base's high security fence.

"This is an appeal to members of the armed forces of all countries and all those employed to help them guarding, maintaining and preparing first strike nuclear weapons. These weapons are illegal," he said.

"We urge you to refuse to obey illegal orders such as those requiring you to guard, maintain or transport any nuclear weapons of first use such as cruise

'Witnesses inaudible for noise of traffic'

Courts forced into unfit rooms, says appeal judge

By Malcolm Dean

High Court hearings are taking place in rooms not fit to be courts because of the pressure of cases, according to Sir Roger Parker, a Court of Appeal judge.

Sir Roger disclosed that the transcript from one room which was being used by the Court of Appeal in the Royal Courts of Justice in London included several gaps because the transcriber had been unable to hear witnesses for the noise of traffic outside.

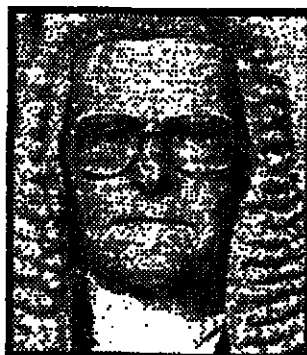
"One has a choice between opening the windows and being unable to hear for the roar of the traffic in the Strand or keeping them closed and suffering from increasing lack of oxygen so bad that one sometimes has to use one's last gasp in announcing an adjournment at 3 pm or finding that by 4.15 pm everyone is asleep."

Sir Roger, who was promoted from the High Court to the Court of Appeal in 1983, was delivering the annual Denning lecture to the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry.

He said that the pressure of work had become so intense that 15 rooms in the Royal Courts and eight in other buildings were being used to accommodate High Court judges.

Sir Roger went on: "All are only fit for temporary use for High Court work, some are not fit for such work even temporarily."

"In one such so-called court, for example, the witness is so



Sir Roger Parker—'courts under pressure'

close that he can see what the judge is writing.

Sir Roger said that an independent government survey had shown that 20 new courts were needed by the High Court. If the administrators were lucky the proposal to provide 12 new courts next to the Thomas More building would be approved and implemented within four years.

There was a longer term plan for 18 courts in the east wing of the Royal Courts.

Sir Roger also criticised certain recent innovations to make the courts more efficient. He said that the introduction of two judges in place of three in the High Court and Court of Appeal did not improve the product. "It does no more than enable more products to be produced."

Reforms should not be introduced without investigating their side-effects, he said.

Outside London, the judge noted, county court trial centres had been established in certain places, but the quality of judges in such cases were too unpredictable. "The burden on the High Court will only be reduced when the quality of the county court trials is improved."

He also criticised solicitors for placing too many documents in court briefs. They failed to select and failed to get counsel to select. Poor collation created much confusion and frequent pauses as parties searched for the correct page.

"In one very long case I kept note with a stop watch of the time taken up in such fruitless activities and by the end of the seventh day one complete day was attributable to such matters. There were four parties, each with two counsel, solicitors partners and expert witnesses in attendance. The cost was astronomical."

Drastic measures were needed. One option was to adjourn a case at the expense of the solicitors until the documents were in order. There was also need to improve cross-examination, too much of which was irrelevant at present. Two questions should be asked: "What is your best case? What is the worst case against you?"

Sir Roger said that there was need for longer sentences and for the right of the Court of Appeal to increase sentences. Such a power would stop the hundreds of worthless applications which were made at present.

Lack of supervision 'puts pupils at risk'

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Children are in danger and heads are under intolerable stress because many teachers opt out of lunchtime supervision, the biggest head teacher union said yesterday. Leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers will urge the association's conference next week to back a campaign on the issue, with action ranging from closing their schools at lunch-time to alerting parents, school governors, and local authorities' insurance companies about the potential dangers to children during inadequately supervised midday breaks.

Extra money to cover midday supervision costs, promised by the government on Tuesday, was not sufficient reason to call off the campaign, NAHT leaders said yesterday.

It was promised for 1986-7 but only on condition that agreement was reached on a conditions of service package.

"Midday supervision is a separate issue," said the union's general secretary, Mr David Hart.

Sir Keith Joseph's statement said that the money for supervision would be included in the 1986-87 rate support grant settlement, if agreement was reached on a new teacher's contract.

But Sir Keith had not said whether it would be paid to teachers or to ancillary supervisors—the dinner ladies—and if it went into the rate support grant settlement, each local authority would decide how to spend the money.

"We want a national agreement," Mr Hart said. "I do not like the prospect of negotiating 104 separate deals."

A NAHT survey, released yesterday, showed that at the end of last month 38 per cent of heads relying supervised at midday without any other teacher to help. Two thirds of the heads were supervising on their own or had only one teacher to help.

Dinner duty used to be accepted as part of a teachers' normal job until a 1968 agreement with the Government established that it was voluntary. During the present pay dispute members of the two main teacher unions have been instructed to do midday duties.

A more whole-hearted welcome of Sir Keith's statement came from the general secretary of the other heads' organisation, Mr Peter Snape, of the Secondary Heads Association.

Having accepted that dinner duties were voluntary, said Mr Snape, Sir Keith could not go back on it.

Prison officers threaten to ban Guardian reporter

By Aileen Ballantyne

The Prison Officers' Association threatened yesterday to remove the Guardian's accreditation to cover the conference, depending on the contents of today's paper.

A motion that the newspaper's representative should be asked to leave the Prison Officers' Association was put by Mr Graham Harrison, chairman of Risley remand centre branch.

The POA's chairman, Mr Colin Steel, said delegates should postpone discussing the motion for 24 hours and reconsider it in the light of what was said in today's Guardian.

Mr Harrison was complaining about a front page article in Wednesday's Guardian about government cuts in prison officers' overtime, and a leading article in Tuesday's.

Some of you may have noticed today an article in the Guardian, which used to be my favourite newspaper, he said.

"I am disgusted that the Guardian reporter continues to inform the public that we are protesting about cuts in overtime when they know full well that our concern is not cuts in overtime, but that without overtime we could not meet our commitments to the inmates put in our charge."

"It was not what was written that concerned me, rather

what was not written. It is typical yellow press — misrepresenting what was said."

Mr Steel said he was disappointed by what he described as the newspaper's "very unbalanced and irresponsible reporting," and he had spoken to the Guardian reporter about it. "This will do nothing other than to provide another sensational byline for the Guardian if we ban her from this conference," he said.

"This is the first time that anyone has suggested that a member of the press should have his credentials withdrawn."

Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy general secretary, said the Guardian had proved in 1980 during the POA dispute that it was on the side of the Home Office.

Mr Steel also criticised press coverage of the association on Tuesday and referred particularly to the Guardian in reading an extract from a POA magazine of 1979.

"There was a time when almost any unscrupulous journalist could draw a substantial sum for an article on the prison service," he said. "Provided truth was at a minimum, or entirely absent, such piffle generally found a ready sale. It was ever the best seller. Times did not change."

The Guardian will continue to report the conference.

Flying in face of food

By Martin Walwright

Birds got a break yesterday at Fortnum and Mason's, the London gourmet store where they usually feature as gulls' eggs (35p each) or goose liver mousse (£5.75 for a small tin).

An appeal for £1.5 million in memory of the comedian Eric Morecambe, a keen ornithologist, was launched at the shop by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Shaw business figures were there, but the key guests at the lunch were

from the business world.

The junior environment minister, Mr William Waldegrave, announced eight new special protection areas for birds in Britain. The RSPB is spending more than £2 million this year on buying reserves and needs the Morecambe appeal to replenish its reserves.

Meanwhile, the Welsh region of the charity announced that egg-shelves had raised nine of the 30 known nesting sites of the Red Kite, six more than last year.

LEICESTERCARD INVESTMENT BOND.

10.75% NET

WHEN INTEREST IS TAKEN MONTHLY OR HALF YEARLY.

11.04% C.A.R.

WHEN INTEREST IS LEFT TO COMPOUND.

If you want the best offer, move to Leicester.

If you're looking for a secure investment with the highest possible return, your best move is to the Leicester Building Society.

For a minimum investment of £10,000, our new Leicestercard Investment Bond guarantees you 2.5% above the basic share rate.

Currently giving you 10.75% net, with a compounded annual rate of 11.04%, which no other top ten building society can match.

And for those with smaller sums to invest, Leicester's existing Leicestercard Bond still offers top returns, but now with a guaranteed 2% above the share account rate, for a minimum investment of £2,000.

Giving you 10.25% net, 10.51% compounded annual rate.

In all other aspects the Leicestercard Investment

Bond and the Leicestercard Bond are identical.

Both guarantee the extra interest for at least 3 years.

Both allow you to withdraw your money without penalty with just 28 days' notice after one year.

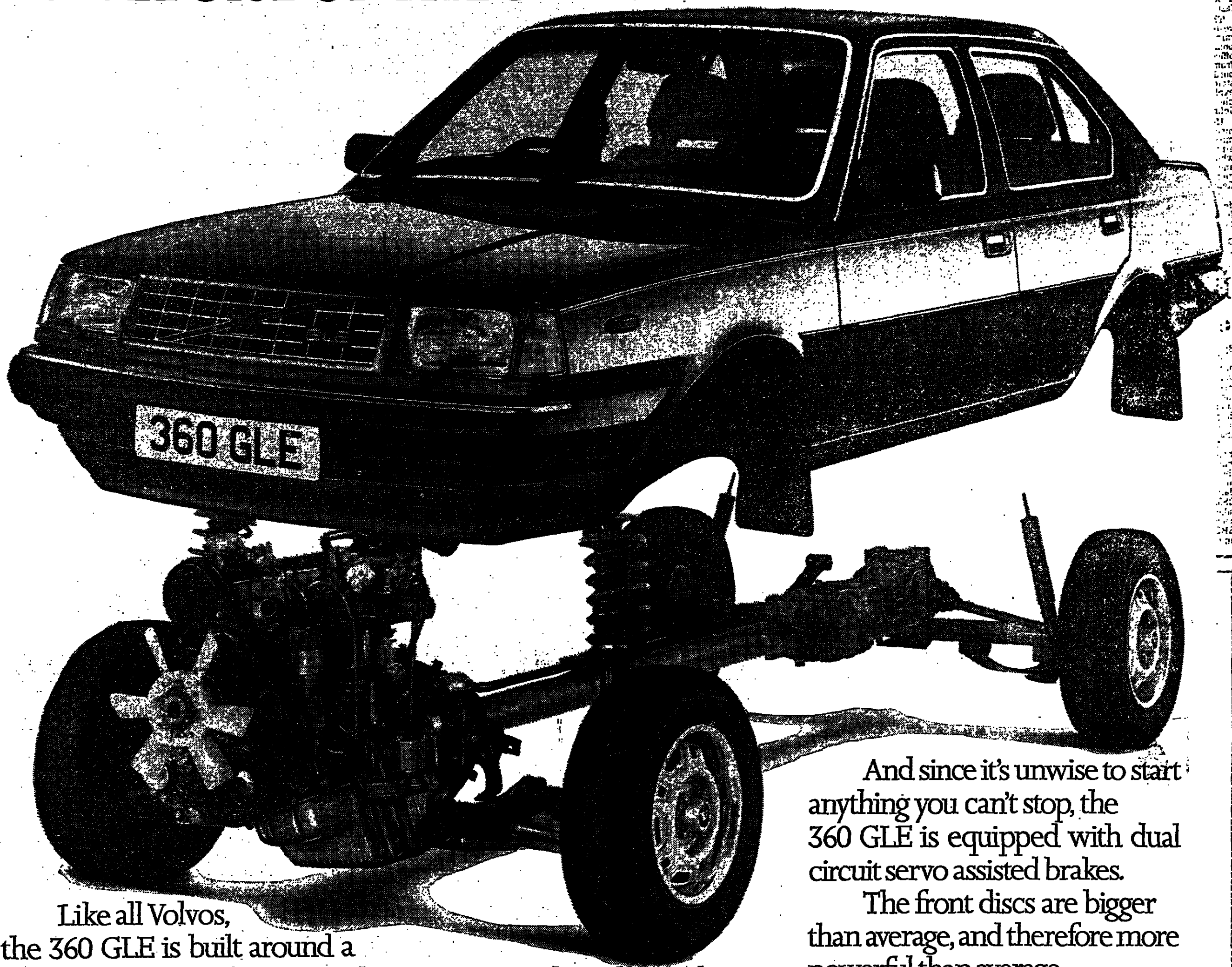
Both give you the Leicestercard: a unique way to save money at over 11,000 shops and restaurants throughout Britain.

And both are going to be very popular. So if you want to beat the rush to Leicester, send off the coupon today.



SURNAME(S)	(MR/MRS/MS)
CHRISTIAN NAME(S)	
ADDRESS	
I/we enclose £_____ to be invested in the Leicestercard Investment Bond/Leicestercard Bond.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we require the interest to be paid or credited half yearly, or	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we would like the interest to be paid monthly.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we wish to apply for a Leicestercard. <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more details.	
SIGNED	DATE
To Investment Dept., Leicester Building Society, FREEPOST, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4ZP.	
Leicester Building Society	
It all adds up to more from the Leicester.	

EVEN WITHOUT ITS SAFETY CAGE, THE VOLVO 360 IS STILL ONE OF THE SAFEST CARS ON THE ROAD.



Like all Volvos, the 360 GLE is built around a welded box steel safety cage, with impact-absorbing crumple zones front and rear.

It has side impact protection bars in both front doors.

A high-impact laminated windscreen.

And 3-point inertia reel seat belts in the front and rear seats.

No other car in its class offers you more protection in the event of a collision.

But look beneath the protection, and you'll find something else. A car that's designed to help you avoid collisions in the first place.

The 360 GLE has a transaxle configuration incorporating a de

Dion rear axle and MacPherson strut independent front suspension.

In other words, it handles beautifully.

The rack and pinion steering is light, precise and instantly responsive.

And because the wheels have a slight negative camber, cornering is more positive.

You can overtake with confidence, too. The 360 GLE's 2 litre overhead camshaft engine is designed to produce high torque at low revs.

(From 50-70mph, the car is almost 2 seconds quicker than a Saab 90.)

And since it's unwise to start anything you can't stop, the 360 GLE is equipped with dual circuit servo assisted brakes.

The front discs are bigger than average, and therefore more powerful than average.

And there's a pressure conscious reducing valve on the rear drums, to reduce the risk of wheel-lock.

These days, the roads are full of accidents looking for somewhere to happen.

With the Volvo 360 GLE, you have a better chance of steering clear of them.

To: Volvo, Springfield House,
Mill Avenue, Bristol BS1 4SA.
Please send me further details.
Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
1985 VOLVO 2 LITRE 360 GLE. FROM £7354.

Shamir wants pardons for offences against Palestinians

Israeli call for release of Jewish terror group

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

The row over Monday's exchange of 1,150 Arab prisoners for three Israeli soldiers intensified yesterday with angry demands from rightwing Likud ministers and MPs for the release of accused or convicted members of a Jewish underground group.

There were heated arguments between Likud and Labour ministers in the national unity government at a meeting of the inner cabinet, although the Cabinet voted unanimously to approve the terms of the disproportionate exchange with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — general command of Ahmed Jibril.

The argument in the government shifted yesterday from the prisoner deal itself to the question of its relationship to the underground. The Likud leader and Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said that he and his party colleagues were seeking ways to obtain pardons for the 25 members of the Jewish group accused or convicted of terror attacks on Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Labour ministers said they were firmly opposed to any government intervention in the judicial process, although some of them, including the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, are prepared to consider pardons when the case is over. The trial, which began last year, is expected to end next week.

The Industry Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, attacked Labour for trying to make political

capital out of the Likud's demand for the release of the underground members. But he argued that Israel had no alternative but to carry out the prisoner swap with the Syrian-backed Palestinian guerrilla group.

Backbench Likud MPs bitterly attacked the deal itself, despite insistence by ministers that the lives of three Israeli soldiers, captured during the war in Lebanon, were in danger.

Of the Arab prisoners released on Monday, more than 150 were convicted murderers.

The newspaper Ha'aretz commented that the release of the Palestinian terrorists was no basis for the demand to halt legal proceedings against the accused Jewish terrorists.

The extortionist norms of terrorist organisations should not be copied by the state of Israel, the paper said. "There is no room for competition with Ahmed Jibril."

A Jordanian newspaper, meanwhile, reported yesterday that Israel is to free another 1,012 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for an unspecified number of bodies of Israeli soldiers. The paper, Sawt al-Sha'ab, quoted a Palestinian source in Amman, as saying that the bodies were held by Yasser Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group.

The Israeli army spokesman said he had heard of no plans for a further exchange. Military sources said they believed that Fatah was trying to hint that it was in the market for a swap.

Turkish Cypriots to keep island troops

By John Tofole

UN efforts to produce a new peace plan for Cyprus have run into problems over Turkish Cypriots' demand to keep a considerable military presence on the island even after a negotiated end to partition.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, has told the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, that he expects to play host indefinitely to several thousand mainland Turkish troops after a peace treaty is signed. He has indicated that he has the support of Ankara for this firm stand.

Officially the Greek Cypriot position is that all Turkish troops must be withdrawn immediately, as part of any settlement. But, privately, President Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, has indicated that he might accept a phased withdrawal of all Turkish troops.

In January President Kyprianou refused to sign a "preliminary draft" of a peace treaty, in part because it referred to "a timetable for the withdrawal of non-Cypriot military troops and elements"

from Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots wanted the draft altered to confirm that "all non-Cypriot military troops" would go within a specified time.

Mr Denktaş says that there can be no timetable for total withdrawal of Turkish troops. Instead the draft agreement should state that some Turkish troops will remain until mutual confidence is restored.

Almost 20,000 Turkish soldiers remain in the unrecognised Turkish state of Northern Cyprus. They are part of the intervention force which landed on the island in 1974 after an anti-Makarios coup organised by the military Junta then in power in Greece.

Turkish Cypriot sources say that they are prepared to accept an equal number of mainland Greek troops on the island after a settlement.

Meanwhile, efforts to end the political crisis within the Greek Cypriot community have collapsed. The two parties, the Communist Akel and the conservative Rally, have rejected plans for an all-party national council to define a common approach to Turkey.

SA council election tempts no candidates

From Patrick Lawrence in Johannesburg

The rejection of the black township council was underlined yesterday by the disclosure that not a single candidate offered himself for election to fill 10 vacancies in the Lekoa town council.

The council is situated in the trouble-torn Vaal triangle, about 25 miles from Johannesburg, and is the local authority for four Vaal townships, including Sebokeng and Sharpeville.

After the unrest last September, several councillors were either killed in the first furious burst of violence or forced to resign. Ten seats were vacant, but scheduled by-elections had to be cancelled because no one was willing to stand.

The Lekoa town clerk, Mr P. Louw, yesterday blamed the failure of residents to stand. "There is no point in even trying to hold the by-elections before November," he added. Noting that on June 16 residents would commemorate the anniversary of the 1976 rebellion by Soweto students and that on September 3 they would commemorate last year's revolt in the Vaal Triangle against increased rents proposed by the council.

The publicity secretary of the Sharpeville Civic Association, Mr Phillip Moile, hailed the absence of candidates as a victory for the residents. "The Lekoa council has proved to everyone else that it has failed and nobody wants to join a failing body," he said.

Meanwhile, legal observers pointed out yesterday that an amendment before parliament will effectively negate an appeal before the court by the people of Witkopps against their removal from white-designated South

Africa to Pachtat in the black homeland of Bophuthatane.

The Magopa people originally appealed to the Supreme Court against their removal in 1983 on the grounds that it had not been authorised by Parliament as required by law.

The Supreme Court turned down their appeal, ruling that Parliament had approved their relocation in advance when it voted in favour of the relocation of a whole series of black communities in 1978. The Magopa community has since appealed.

But an amendment before parliament specifically authorising approval of a removal has been passed. The amendment is made retroactive to 1973, thus effectively removing the issue from the jurisdiction of the Appeal Court.

Legal observers believe that the government introduced the clause because it feared that the Appeal Court might rule that Parliament should approve the specific Magopa removal rather than give blanket approval of removals in advance — and that the ruling National Party might have difficulty in persuading the Coloured and Indian chambers in tripartite parliament to approve it.

South African police released a black town union leader from detention on the day he died, the Law and Order Minister, Mr Louis le Grange, has said.

Replying to a question in parliament, Mr Le Grange said Andries Rautsels was detained in Thabane, black township east of Johannesburg, on May 4, taken to hospital and freed from detention there on May 8, when he died.



A Shi'ite Muslim pushes a Palestinian civilian with his gun in Lebanon yesterday after the man left the besieged refugee camp of Chatilla. The captive was forced into a car and taken away by the gunmen.

US again feels helpless in a hostage crisis

from Alex Brummer in Washington

THE Reagan team, which blasted the Carter White House over its timid handling of the Iranian hostage crisis, is beginning to face the same public frustration and feeling of helplessness over its inability to do anything to bring about the release of four American hostages being held in Lebanon.

"We don't know how to deal with this situation," an Administration Middle East expert acknowledged yesterday. The official argued that the most important thing for the Administration at present was to keep a low profile and prevent a surge in publicity about the plight of the Lebanese hostages.

"The publicity increases the value of the hostages to their captors... that was a lesson for Iran," he observed.

Foreign policy analysts outside the Administration were quick to draw distinctions between the hostages in Iran and those being held in Lebanon. "There are significant differences," said Mr James Hackett, a former national security official, who now works at the rightwing Heritage foundation. "In Iran," he pointed out, "it was official government personnel who were held, and they were in a known location."

The Administration's responses to the current focus

on the Lebanese hostages has a distinct air of the ineffectual passivity of the Carter Administration which was so sharply criticised by Ronald Reagan in the 1980 election campaign. "We will work with anyone who may be able to help," is the official response to the Rev Jesse Jackson's promise to help the relatives of the men who are trapped.

This is exactly the kind of language which was used during the Carter hostage crisis, when a series of independent Americans, including the former attorney general, Mr Ramsey Clark, sought to conduct their own mediation on behalf of a government which appeared at a loss for answers as how to deal with Ayatollah Khomeini's brand of Islamic fundamentalism.

The current Administration hides behind the notion that the American hostages and the two French captives are being held by unknown groups professing to be part of the Islamic Jihad, which in State Department parlance makes them terrorists.

Despite all its bluster on countering terrorism, the Reagan Administration is looking as paralysed as the Carter Administration in its approach to the Middle East. The hijackers who executed an American and diverted a Kuwaiti airliner to Iran last December have never been brought to trial, despite warnings of dire conse-

WHETHER YOU NEED A LOW VOLUME COPIER

WHETHER YOU NEED A MEDIUM VOLUME COPIER

WHETHER YOU NEED A HIGH VOLUME COPIER

WHETHER YOU NEED A HEAVY DUTY COPIER

Up to 99 copies automatically at 15 copies a minute. Enlarges and reduces in over 700 sizes. Perfect copy quality thanks to Micro-Tuning. For the full story fill in this coupon.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

158

MINOLTA

THE MINOLTA EP 350Z ZOOM COPIER.

Up to 99 copies automatically at 25 copies a minute. Enlarges and reduces in over 700 sizes, making it 10 times more accurate than most other copiers. Copy quality is perfect with Micro-Tuning and there is an optional Document Feeder and sorter. Send off the coupon for more details.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

158

MINOLTA

THE MINOLTA EP 450Z ZOOM COPIER.

Up to 999 copies automatically at a rate of 35 copies a minute. Enlarges and reduces in over 700 sizes, making it ten times more accurate than most other copiers. Like all Minolta copiers, the EP 550Z has Micro-Tuning to ensure perfect copy quality. As with the EP 450Z there is the option of an Automatic Document Feeder with either a 10 or 20 tray sorter. Send off the coupon for more details.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

158

MINOLTA

THE MINOLTA EP 550Z ZOOM COPIER.

Up to 999 copies automatically at a rate of 46 copies a minute. Enlarges and reduces in over 700 sizes, making it ten times more accurate than most other copiers. Like all Minolta copiers, the EP 650Z has Micro-Tuning to ensure perfect copy quality. There is the option of an Automatic Document Feeder with either a 10 or 20 tray sorter. And, like the EP 450Z and 550Z, there is also the facility for attaching a large capacity 1500 sheet cassette for A4 paper. Send off the coupon for more details.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

158

MINOLTA

THE MINOLTA EP 650Z ZOOM COPIER.

President appeals to religious leaders to end island violence

Tamils 'part of plot to destabilise democracy'

From David Fallister in Colombo

President Junius Jayawardene yesterday personally appealed to leaders of Sri Lanka's four main religious groups for their cooperation in ending the violent conflict with Hindu Tamil separatists in the northern and eastern provinces.

During a one-hour meeting he accused the Tamil guerrilla groups of being part of a "concerted international Marxist plan" to destabilise democracy in Sri Lanka.

According to a government spokesman he said this was not exclusive to Sri Lanka. He gave as other examples the assassination of Dr. Ambedkar in India, the assassination of Dr. Rajagopalachari in Madras, and the assassination of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in India.

The meeting was described as exploratory by one of the senior Christian clergies present. It did not discuss the call from senior Buddhist monks for the opening of talks with the Indian Government and the Tamil guerrilla leaders in Madras. But unofficial contacts to involve Delhi in a negotiated settlement have continued this week, according to Government sources.

The President's special envoy, Mr. Esmond Wickramasinghe, is understood to have returned from a meeting with Mr. Gandhi on Tuesday.

Mr. Gandhi is believed to have asked for substantial concessions for the Tamils on the status of their very distinct language, the right of the Tamil areas to elect their own district ministers, and a

greater control of land use in their home areas. Different government officials have been extreme in their views about the prospects of a settlement. They range from a belief in a Tamil invasion from southern India, where up to 30,000 Tamils are said to be under training. With railway services to the north and the east now suspended because of guerrilla activities, the Tamil provinces are virtually under a state of siege, with the army in the north and the police Special Task Force in the east moving out of their barracks at their peril.

On Monday night, it was announced yesterday, five policemen were killed and five injured in a series of attacks in their search for terrorists who attacked a police station at Mannampitaya near a US development project. None of the 41 Americans or their families was hurt, but the Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulthumudali, said that many people in the area had fled from the violence.

Mr. Athulthumudali told a press conference that reports of the army killing 70 Tamil civilians earlier this month in the northern port town of Velvetthurai were false. Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday refused to comment on reports that up to 20,000 Sinhalese were being forced to move from their homes in the north-west of the island for security reasons. The 5,000 families in villages around Chedikulam live about 25 miles north of Anuradhapura.

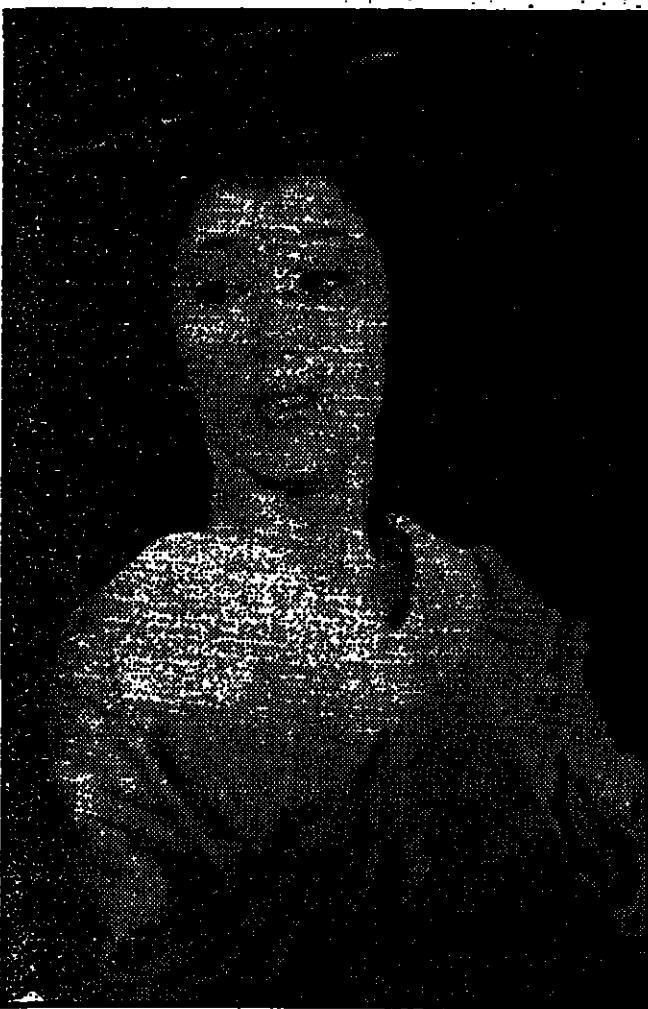
Martial law to be lifted

Dhaka: President Ershad said yesterday that he would soon relax martial law and revive political activity in Bangladesh.

After the end of rural elections yesterday he said that he would again invite political

leaders to talks on the country's future. Referring to a call by opposition parties for a boycott of the polls, he said: "The success of the upazila (district) elections has proved that I was right and the opposition was totally wrong." — Reuters.

Death threats face woman who taunts Hirohito



Genshu Hanayagi: target of the extreme right

Robert Whyman, in Tokyo, reports on a brave individualist in a country where conformity is highly prized

IN A dreary corner of Tokyo, overshadowed by elevated expressways, you will find the studio of Genshu Hanayagi, a most uncommon woman, simply by tracking the ultrarightists dressed like soldiers whose loud-speakers spit martial airs and angry slogans up and down her street.

Then you will be guided to her door by the graffiti on the wall denouncing her as a "traitorous swine" and a "national enemy."

Japan's extreme right, which a police report says is becoming increasingly active, has targeted Genshu, a dance star, and a best-selling writer, because she has ignored a national taboo by criticising the Emperor of Japan, Hirohito.

Genshu, 45-year-old heart-throb of a generation of men now edging into middle age, last month took her campaign to the Ginza and handed out leaflets announcing: "Stop the birthday celebration of war criminal Hirohito."

It is hard for non-Japanese to grasp the implications of an act of protest by a celebrity of Genshu's standing. Though Hirohito was forced to shed his divinity after Japan's defeat, a

majority of Japanese, especially older people, refer to him with awe and never by his given name.

The national press, guardian of the status quo, reports on the emperor in the most respectful terms, and shuns questions about his possible war guilt.

While critics of the emperor are no longer imprisoned for lese majeste, which carried a death sentence before the war, Japan's constitution does not extend to declaring, as Genshu's pamphlet does, that "Hirohito is called a most evil person by the whole world. Yet the world is silent concerning Hirohito, an agent of death who was far more people than Hitler."

As past experience has shown, Japan's ultraright does not leave such insults unpunished. A stream of death threats poured into Genshu's studio. A few days ago the leader of the "Soul of the Sun" broke in and ransacked the premises and then surrendered to police. His and some 850 other such groups with 120,000 members are stepping up activities reminiscent of the ultraright of the 1930s that helped stoke the fires of war.

The latest national police agency report recorded the highest number of crimes involving the ultraright in any year since the war.

"I think there's a strong

chance I might be assassinated," says Genshu. Physical violence by ultraright extremists in Japan is frequent. Genshu's requests for a degree of protection have been brushed aside.

A lesser woman, not to speak of a man, would never have ventured a protest so fraught with risk. Genshu, as every Japanese knows, is no ordinary dancer. If the premier element was shocked by her avant-garde stage performances and love dramas, her notoriety is complete. When in 1930 she stabbed the leader of Japan's most renowned school of dance in the neck. For this she served eight months in prison.

The wound was superficial, but what Genshu intended was a symbolic protest against the "kenoto" — a system in which a few families dominate traditional arts like ikebana (flower arrangement), tea ceremony, and dance.

Genshu's name became synonymous with the fight against the dynasties of masters who have turned the arts into big business, amassing fortunes by selling diplomas to their pupils, and influence that causes cabinet ministers to court them.

Genshu's assault marked her out as an enemy of the establishment, and for the same reason probably height-

ened her popularity among ordinary people. Her spell in prison gave her time to develop her thoughts about the parallels between the hereditary clans of the traditional arts masters and the imperial family.

In fact, the entire ruling classes derives its legitimacy from the emperor system, which may explain why, in the words of the National Diet, "there is a powerful thrust to recognise his (the emperor's) godship again and to make him the sovereign head of the state."

Shortly before the emperor's 84th birthday at the end of April, Genshu distributed her leaflets. Police impounded them and summoned her to answer charges of pamphleteering.

This incident with the police attracted publicity, but the newspapers could not carry the unvarnished message she wants to put across. "In this the 60th year of the emperor's reign, the National Diet (Prime Minister) is mobilising the mass media in an ambitious campaign to restore Japanese nationalism with the emperor as its core again."

Australia wanted him de-throned and put on trial, as did the Russians. But General Douglas MacArthur prevailed and the Americans decided that the emperor was a historical figure, David Bergamini, "to use the emperor and to whitewash him."

Gandhi pleases the Russians and leaves with 1 bn roubles

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, closed his Russian visit yesterday with a 1,000 million rouble credit agreement from the Kremlin. Mr. Gandhi delighted his Soviet hosts by giving broad support to their opposition to the US Star Wars project and by publicly stating in Moscow yesterday: "India and the Soviet Union will always stand together in the quest for peace."

At a press conference in Moscow yesterday, Soviet officials were visibly enraptured as Mr. Gandhi said: "India is very much on the way to socialism," and repeated his commitment to the state sector as the core of India's economic development.

There had been considerable nervousness in Moscow before his arrival that the old special

relationship between Moscow and Delhi might not have survived the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. Mr. Gandhi's assiduous stoking of Soviet fears has been a considerable success, but from the cautious and emollient tones in which he couched his occasional criticism of Western policy thoughtful diplomatic observers in Moscow yesterday gathered that Mr. Gandhi was taking his usual role rather more even-handedly than his mother.

At his press conference in Moscow, he stressed that the US was India's leading trading partner, and that he hoped to build "a personal relationship" with President Reagan on his forthcoming trip to Washington. Questioned on the Indo-Soviet military relationship, Mr. Gandhi said yesterday that his defence minister had enjoyed

"a very fruitful exchange," and added that "our cooperation in that field is improving substantially." But the main thrust of his visit, and the agreements which had been carefully prepared in advance for him to sign, reflected the trading relationship to which Moscow attaches such importance. The agreement signed this week, as well as the 1,000 million rouble credit deal, provide for official coordination of the two countries' next national plans up to 2,000.

Mr. Gandhi's talks with Mr. Gorbachev ranged widely around world affairs, from Sri Lanka to Nicaragua. He made it plain that India maintained its reservations over the Soviet war in Afghanistan, stressing India's objection to any country's intervention in the affairs of another.

Over 20 Sikhs now in custody after bombing conspiracy

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The police claimed further successes yesterday in their hunt for the Sikh bombers who killed 45 civilians in Delhi, and 40 more in neighbouring north Indian states, two weeks ago.

Another two Sikhs alleged to be key conspirators were remanded in custody by the chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr. Subhash Wason on sedition charges. A third was arrested later, bringing the total under arrest to 21.

The prosecuting counsel, Mr. R. K. Khanna, said that one of the pair charged yesterday, Surjeet Singh, was an expert bomb-maker, who had prepared the booby-trapped transistor radios with parts supplied by a Sikh leader, Oberoi, one of the first to be arrested, and another man who was still at large.

Counsel for the other Sikh charged yesterday, Indarpal Singh Bhatia, told the court that his client had a weak heart. The magistrate replied that medical aid was available in police custody if he needed it.

Meanwhile, in Amritsar the relatively moderate block of Sikh politicians loyal to Mr. Harbansingh Longowal launched a counter-attack against the extremists who have taken over the Akali Dal party. A meeting of 13 district and state party leaders rejected Mr. Longowal's resignation as president and directed him to resume his duties.

The Akalis similarly rejected the resignations of two Longowal allies, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, the leader of the legislative party and former chief minister of Punjab, and Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra,

the president of the SPGC committee, which controls the Golden Temple and other shrines.

With only one dissenting voice, the 13 local leaders also repudiated the nine-member ad hoc committee set up by Baba Joginder Singh, the 58-year-old father and heir of the famous preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranvale, to run Akali affairs and unite the party.

The moderates dispatched a deputation to report their decisions to Mr. Longowal, who has withdrawn to his native village, where a party convention is to be summoned next Sunday, followed by a leadership session in Chandigarh, the state capital, next Thursday.

The question remains whether Mr. Longowal and his associates can recapture the authority they have steadily forfeited over the past year.

THE DAY IN POLITICS

BUS BREAK-UP

Think small say MPs

By Alan Travis CONSERVATIVE backbenchers yesterday pressed transport ministers to break up the National Bus Company into at least three separate companies when it is sold off later this year.

Mr. Matthew Parris (C, Derbyshire W) tabled an amendment to the Transport Bill on its last day in Commons demanding that not more than 49 per cent of the NBC be transferred to any one party.

Mr. David Mitchell, the Transport Minister, told the Commons that the NBC has already appointed a merchant bank to discuss with the Department of Transport the options for privatisation but discussions had not yet reached the stage where any conclusions could be brought forward.

Mr. Parris said he wanted to see a large number of small companies rather than a small number of large companies. If the NBC was privatised as one or two large monopolies the threat to other bus undertakings would be so great that it would defeat the central object of the Transport Bill to introduce competition into the bus industry.

Mr. Malcolm Bruce (Lib, Gordon) argued that transport ministers should take account of local circumstances when deciding on the size of units into which NBC was going to be broken up. The main principle should be that there would be equal competition between the newly-privatised companies and the small transport operators who run bus services in certain parts of the country.

Mr. Mitchell said that the bill already included clauses which would ensure fair competition, and although final decisions were to be taken on the size of the units into which the NBC will be broken up, he would retain that objective in mind when the decision was taken.

Kinnock urged to live more dangerously



Mr. Hain—alarmed

By Martin Linton

THE Labour leader Mr. Neil Kinnock should be prepared to live more dangerously and to be more controversial in arguing for the radical alternative which the party's policies do represent, he says.

He cites the example of Mr. Michael Meacher's proposal to replace mortgage tax relief with a unified housing allowance. Granted that the presentation was bungled and that the leadership was placed in a difficult position by lack of prior consultation, the Shadow Cabinet should not have been so quick to distance itself from fresh thinking like that, he says.

But an alarming lack of substance is becoming apparent because the leadership has not really argued for clear socialist values and ideas, says Mr. Hain, who is vice-chairman of the influential leftwing pressure group, Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

"Without being reckless, the leadership should be prepared to live more danger-

ously, to be more controversial, imaginative, innovating and initiating in arguing for the radical alternative which the party's policies do represent," he says.

He puts forward three policy issues on which, he says, the Labour left is in particular need of making some hard choices. On incomes, there must be a coherent policy and unless the left sets the agenda for debate on a total approach to incomes, inequalities and benefits, Labour will end up sliding down the same sorry path which led to defeat in 1970 and again in 1979.

On public ownership, the left should ask itself some hard questions about the cost of rationalising entire industries, such as British Telecom, against the cost of repatriating control of BT, which would need only 5 per cent of the shares.

On defence Labour's left wing should concentrate on working out a clear strategy for Labour's role in Nato — such as building a majority for no first strike — rather than engaging in the fruitless exercise of trying to overturn the party's policy to remain in Nato.

Mr. Hain, who has consistently argued that the Labour left should offer Mr. Kinnock more support, warns that it would be a great mistake for the left to set its aims too high. To expect five million new jobs to be created in the first term of a Kinnock Government would either lead to underachievement or cynically setting the leadership up for an inevitable betrayal, he says.

US switch stand on star wars—Healey

FOREIGN POLICY

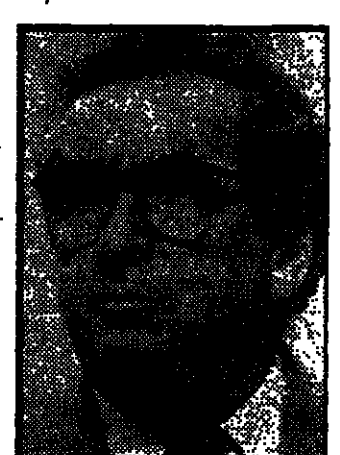
By Alan Travis

THE Shadow Foreign Secretary, Mr. Denis Healey, claimed yesterday that the Reagan Administration had changed its position and would now negotiate about the deployment of the Strategic Defence Initiative if research proves it feasible.

Mr. Healey, during Commons foreign affairs questions, said that Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, has recently repeated statements to this effect. "It is a clear breach of the understanding between Mr. Thatcher and President Reagan reached in December," he added.

He said Washington had made it clear that they were monitoring Soviet research in the field and had published a list of US experiments they intended to undertake as part of the so-called Star Wars project. "Would it not be sensible to kill off the whole thing at birth by a quick ban on all space-related experiments?" he could be asked and indeed has already been, he asked Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

Sir Geoffrey accused Mr. Healey of over-simplifying the issue. "Both sides regard such a system of monitoring of research as unattainable in practice. The US has repeatedly stated that SDI deployment must be a matter for negotiation and this was confirmed not only at the Camp David meeting in December



Mr. Healey: 'Clear breach'

but in recent meetings as well." Earlier, Sir Geoffrey told Mr. John Evans (Lab, St Helens N) that the SDI proposals were designed not to achieve superiority over the USSR but to achieve balance. He said the Russians had deployed the only active anti-ballistic system in the world and had undertaken research in this field for a long time.

MPs from all parties yesterday signed a Commons early day motion calling on the British Government to negotiate with the USSR and the United States for a moratorium on nuclear testing as a first step towards the achievement of a comprehensive test ban treaty. The move mirrors the efforts of Senator Kennedy and others in the US Congress to achieve a moratorium on US testing by cutting off funding for it, subject to a halt by the USSR.

Welsh SDP and Liberals set the pace with scheme for Alliance conference

By Paul Hoyland

Social Democrats and Liberals in Wales are setting the pace for the Alliance with plans for a joint policy conference at Cardiff in November.

Dr David Owen, the SDP's leader, showed no enthusiasm for the proposed conference when he addressed the Welsh assembly at Tenby in March. But the local SDP officials now expect that he and the Liberal leader, Mr. David Steel, will attend.

Dr Owen was not pleased when the Welsh Alliance pioneered an agreement last year for joint selection of parliamentary candidates. He believed it implied an amalgamation of the two parties.

Although his opposition to a joint national conference is unlikely to be swayed by the Welsh initiative, Dr Owen would at least be well placed to handle developments from the Cardiff platform. After some sharp exchanges at Tenby party officials in Wales seem anxious to mend fences with their leader.

Mr. Gwynor Jones, the executive chairman of the Alliance Committee for Wales, who has been particularly critical of Dr Owen's style of leadership, said: "This conference will be an historic occasion. It emphasises the desire of the two parties in Wales to work very closely together. I hope it will be the forerunner of a British conference one day. The latest opinion polls showed there was

far more support for the Alliance than for the two parties separately. We all must bear that in mind in developing organisational and in policy terms in the run-up to the general election."

He denied that the conference was a step towards an amalgamation: "It is a step towards common sense: people on the doorstep are not as concerned about Liberal or SDP as the concept of the Alliance. It is that which appeals to them."

Mr. Jones, the former SDP chairman for Wales, emphasised that the joint selection agreement in the principle meant that there was no haggling about which party should fight the forthcoming

Envoys 'doing the washing'

By our Political Staff

MOST of Britain's ambassadors abroad spent the majority of their time cleaning their cars, washing up and doing other chores because of Foreign Office staff cutbacks, Sir Anthony Kershaw, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, told the Commons yesterday.

His protest came after Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had confirmed that there had been substantial cutbacks in Foreign Office staff since 1979, with 14 per cent fewer posts than five or six years ago and they were continuing to reduce manpower.

Sir Anthony (C, Stroud) told the Commons: "There are already too few diplomats, especially those at the second grade. Ambassadors find they have to spend most of their time washing their cars and doing the washing up, which is not very efficacious for diplomacy."

Sir Geoffrey replied: "I am grateful for your graphic description of the effectiveness of our economy campaign, which does need to be maintained, but within reason."

PM urged to help pit communities

MINERS' JOBS

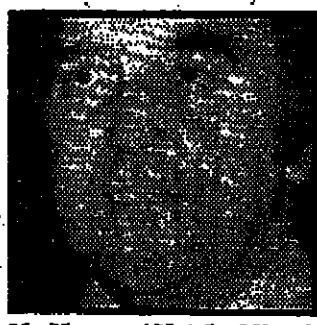
By Colin Brown

THE former Labour Cabinet Minister, Mr. Roy Mason, last night appealed to the Prime Minister to provide more government money for his Barnsley constituency to create new

enterprises to compensate for job losses in the mining industry.

Mr. Mason also urged Mrs. Thatcher, in a letter, to press the chairman of the NCB, Mr. Ian MacGregor, to enlarge the National Coal Board Enterprise Ltd fund rapidly to inject more investment into the area.

"We are not Luddites and it would be foolish to challenge change, but you really must understand that the Coal Board is causing a shake-out of labour faster and on a greater scale than anyone anticipated," said Mr. Mason. "It is ruthlessly fast and does not give any coal-mining community and its local authority the slightest chance of neutralising the vast job losses."



Mr. Mason: 'Not Luddites'

سكائن الامم

HOW THE MONTEGO BECAME THE CAR OF THE YEAR IN JUST NINE MONTHS. TWICE.

CHOSEN BY 'WHAT CAR?' AS 'BEST FAMILY SALOON, AHEAD OF 26 RIVALS:

To take 'What Car?'s much coveted award in this category, you need a car of considerable quality. To win that category as emphatically as the Montego 1.6HL did, required a vehicle of quite outstanding character. To quote 'What Car?', the Montego "shines in many areas where its rivals are merely competent."

The magazine singled out the style, the luxury level of trim, the equipment, the good performance and the economy for special mention.

It also called the Montego "the spiciest family saloon on the market."

Add their reminder that "like all Austins, the Montego is cheap to service and little bother to maintain" and you have a family saloon that in the nine short months after its introduction had stolen a march over much publicised vehicles like the Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6GL, the Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia, the Talbot Solara 1.6LS, the VW Santana, CX and twenty two others.

'WHAT CAR?' ALSO HEAPS MORE PRAISE ONTO (AND INTO) THE MONTEGO 1.6L ESTATE THAN OTHER VEHICLES IN ITS CLASS.

'What Car?'s assessment of the Montego Estate speaks volumes. Literally. We quote "As a five-seater mid-price estate, we can with confidence say the car has no peer, and there are few rivals able to carry an extra two passengers on (optional) rear-facing luggage compartment seats, either."

Beating 13 worthy rivals to the title, the Montego 1.6L Estate was cited for its "excellent load space; luxury trim, good performance; big dealer back up." And it's well priced.

'What Car?' goes on to say, "even the 'E' version interior trim is luxurious and hard wearing while the 1598cc transverse mounted overhead camshaft engine (which drives the front

wheels) is smooth and powerful... Fuel economy is good, service intervals long, and there's an unrivalled dealer back-up as well."

"At last," 'What Car?' proclaims, when awarding its Estate Car of The Year prize, "Austin Rover have an estate car that leads the field."

And what a field it is, with names like the Peugeot 305 GTX;

of the MG Turbo. (At 0-60 mph in 7.3 secs, the fastest MG production car of all time.) Estate versions are available in six cavernous combinations from a 1.6 through to the opulent and very quick Vanden Plas EFI.



Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6GL; Mitsubishi Space Wagon and the Citroen CX 25 IE FAM among those left with their tailgates trailing.

NO OTHER RANGE OF CARS AFFORDS YOU SUCH CHOICE.

Individual Montego models have captured these well deserved plaudits but such brilliance is readily available throughout the comprehensive Montego range. In all, there are sixteen models in the Montego line-up.

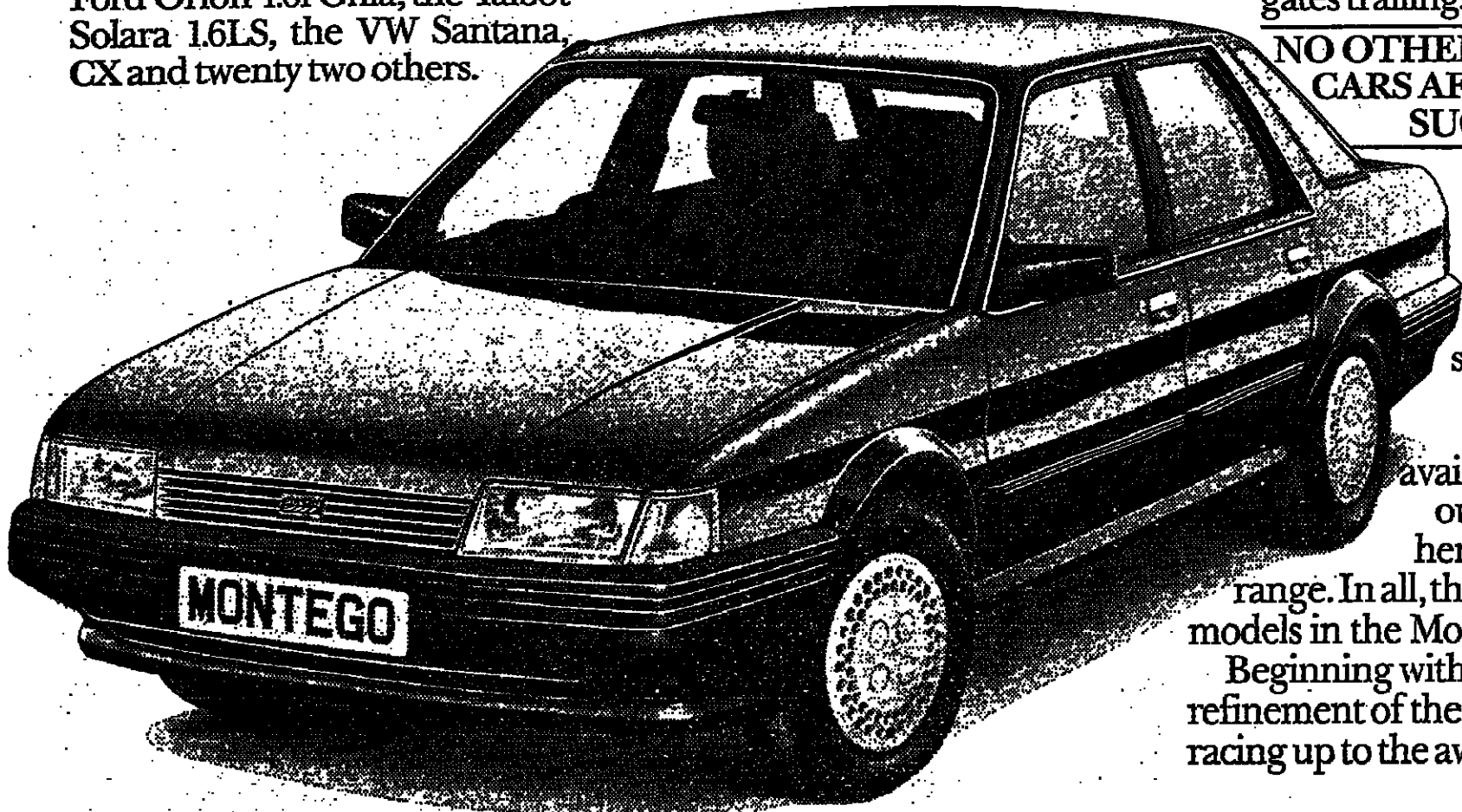
Beginning with the economic refinement of the 1.3 saloon and racing up to the awesome power

Whichever model suits your needs (from £5,685 to £10,301) it would appear that respected motoring journalists are of one voice in acclaiming the winning ways of the Montego.

Find out first hand at an Austin Rover dealer. They are waiting to help you "Take off in style" with some very interesting deals on the Award Winning Montego.

Or by simply ringing 0272 217 217 anytime you can fix an extended test drive with a local Austin Rover dealer.

AUSTIN ROVER



The Montego. Winning is part of the specification.

Cars shown - Montego 1.6HL Saloon and 1.6L Estate. Prices range from 1.3 Saloon at £5,685 to the MG Montego Turbo Saloon at £10,301. *Manufacturer's data. DOT Figures: Montego 1.3 (5 speed) saloon simulated urban cycle 56.5mpg/7.8L per 100km. Constant 56mph 58.5mpg/4.8L per 100km. Constant 75mph 41.5mpg/5.8L per 100km. Montego 1.6HL Saloon and Montego 1.6L Estate simulated urban cycle 51.5mpg/8.0L per 100km. Constant 56mph 55.3mpg/5.3L per 100km. Constant 75mph 38.5mpg/7.1L per 100km. Prices correct at time of going to press, excluding number plates and delivery. NATIONWIDE CAR RENTAL RESERVATIONS THROUGH BRITISH CAR RENTALS, TEL: 0905 77223. AUSTIN ROVER TAX-FREE SALES INFORMATION - TEL: 093 475 200 EXT. 220.

Robin Denselow on the latest rock releases
Blast off...

AFTER the success of Los Lobos, the next Los Angeles "roots-rockers" to succeed must surely be the outfit who first helped them to establish an audience outside the Spanish-speaking part of town. The Blasters' *Hard Line* (Slash/London) is one of the best American albums of the year, and should appeal to all Lobos enthusiasts for its varied, gutsy blend of all-American styles, from rolling R & B and rock to country and gospel, with even an accordion dance song featuring David Hidalgo thrown in.

The Blasters' approach is not based on nostalgia, or any return to the West Coast country-rock styles of the Seventies, but rather a revival of straightforward guitar-band rock mixed in with an encouraging variety of influences. So they start off with a ringing, rolling, and stomping "Trouble Bound" before moving on to country ballads, finger-clicking early rock, or a slick blend of white rock and close-harmony gospel on "Samson and Delilah." In with all this they mix a couple of songs reminiscent of John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater, "Dark Night," with its raw, sparse riff, and "Common Man," a rousing attack on politicians, are two more songs that promise to sound even better played live.

USA For Africa: We Are The World (CBS): The American music establishment's version of the Band Aid African charity concept has spawned not just a hit single and a hit video about its making, but a full, and very patchy album. It starts off with the song that's played non-stop on American radio, a soft-centred Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie composition that's performed by everyone from Dylan and Springsteen to Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Paul Simon, and its composers. It's all in a good cause, but has the radiant sincerity of a soft-drinks commercial. Still, it's intriguing trying to work out which super-star is singing which line (no prizes for Dylan, who sounds as if he is taking himself off).

This song apart, the album contains one real classic that almost alone makes it worth buying. Springsteen's live version of "Johnny 99," "Trapped in a spin-cycle" epic, an anthem about escaping from women's clutches that makes a brave effort for a man who has just got married. Elsewhere, there's a strong new song from the Texan, a mildly disappointing one from the now psychedelic Prince, and a tedious Canadian attempt at the Band Aid idea.



Mark Knopfler

Dire Straits: Brothers In Arms (Phonogram)

Another guaranteed world-wide best-seller this is a classy, varied, melodic, but still slightly disappointing set, in which Mark Knopfler shows off his effortless expertise but never manages to sound wildly exciting. After exploring everything from the epic to gentle ballads with the last set of Dire Straits songs, three years ago, and then moving on to write excellent film music, maybe he's simply not sure what direction he should now take. What he has done is move away from his distinctive, stinging and fluid guitar work to simple, effortlessly tuneful songs that often sound so relaxed as to almost be throw-aways.

Willie And The Poor Boys (Ripple/Decca): Another charity record, this time in aid of the Ronnie Lane ARMS Multiple Sclerosis appeal, in which Bill Wyman and a set of famous and not-so-famous friends hush cheerfully through a set of good-time R & B, boogie and rock favourites. Charlie Watts plays drums.

Eurythmics: Be Yourself Tonight (RCA)

Stevie Wonder re-appears again on the surprising new album from Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, in which they shift away from their exquisite, best-selling brand of electro-pop for an album of soul and rock. It's a brave move, especially as they have enlisted the help of everyone from Wonder and Aretha Franklin, Elvis Costello and members of Tom Petty's band, but if this set is lacking on charming Eurythmics melodies, it's certainly not lacking in exuberant self-confidence.

PETER Hall's current operatic manner comes down to bland, decorative naturalism laced with a philistine fear of significance. Should one want more than a bourgeois Carman at Glyndebourne, its visual images as stolid and turgid as the Victorian narrative paintings of childhood jigsaw puzzles? I do not expect Glyndebourne to risk alienating its patrons the way Lucien Pintilie's Welsh Carmen blithely (and thrillingly) offended. But what about energy and imagination?

Here we have a musically authentic Carman, almost too tastefully, sensitively and pompously played by Bernard Haitink and the LPO. In this suitably intimate theatre one hears more of Bizet's miraculous scoring than ever, with tempi that usually indulge the musical invention at the expense of the drama — as in the ravishing Jose/Maria first act duet. But the core of the work, the fatal gypsy infatuation, is treated with simple-minded, uninquiring nonchalance.

No child of fate, Maria Ewing's Carman meets Jose's impossible stubbornness with suburban petulance. If this is an interpretation it is too slight to contemplate. Not the least of Miss Ewing's problems is her decision to reduce the singing of the role to a conversational level, apart from a few emphatic climaxes. It is a mistake to merge spoken dialogue thus into the music, because taking through the part blunts the prime musical tool of interpretation.

Like Agnes Baltsa at Covent Garden, Ewing manipulates the break into chest register for effect, but the range of colour in the normal voice seemed inadequate for the great aria about fate (the magnetic pole of the entire work) and none of the big numbers was vocally thrilling. I felt no contrast between Carman's mendacious ambivalence and the inescapable truth of fate. When Ewing tells Pastia to

bring sweets and sherry, it is as if she's instructing the suitor.

Clad in trousers and sombrero in the smugglers' camp Ewing looks marvellous, though perhaps the Vogue image is inapt. The denouement is inevitably exciting,

with Ewing steady as a matorador, and her Jose wheeling about her like an enraged bull and ultimately driving her back from the bull-ring door.

Barry McCauley as Jose matches Ewing in seeming no larger than life, though

he achieves a kind of epic vocal assurance in the end. Both make something of their French, but this largely English-speaking cast is generally hard to follow, especially in the voices-over-music melodrama.

The most pleasing singing

by far came from Marie McLaughlin as a very gutsy Micaela. David Holloway seemed seriously miscast as Escamillo, never plumb the bottom notes of the Torador's song (which, however, is given the proper dramatic context of a toast by

YOU DO not altogether expect when sitting on top of a mountain thinking noble thoughts to be run over by a train. Particularly a train travelling backwards so you don't know if it's coming or if it's been.

This stubby little train, puffing a bit and giving strange little high-pitched squeals, came briskly up Snowden bottom first, bearing Philip Madoc and Sian Phillips and a selection of warm clothing. Disentangling, they spoke warmly and at some length about mountains while the wind banged the country like a carpet and the air thickened behind them. It seemed possible they would be caught up in a cloud and carried to heaven, still speaking highly of Wales as they went. And why not, indeed?

Wales: Landscape and Legend (C4), originally made for the Welsh Fourth Channel and kindly translated, here necessary, for our benefit, is a truly beautiful series. It is transmitted at 6.00pm which is the equivalent of putting a bucket over its head. However, it does mean you can just get home, sink down with

a sigh and let it lap softly round your socks. Most refreshing.

Originally it was the Welsh language in the Welsh landscape. The first programme was set among mountains. The air was in two minds whether to be water and the mountains whether to be clouds. The land lay at all angles which didn't seem to worry the sheep, unusual looking animals with high cheek bones, long legs and astonishingly elegant tails. You remember, "Leave them alone and they'll come home/Bringing their tails behind them." Has it crossed your minds that most sheep have no tails? They do in Wales. There was bell-like music at the hills were ringing. And poetry.

"Now poetry is what Milton saw when he went blind. I am rather fond of it and when I hear it tend to close my eyes. Most people are not fond of it but also, for their own good reasons, close their eyes. In television terms this is, you appreciate, a difficulty. Nobody seems to have mentioned to the Welsh that you can't do poetry on television just as no one has men-

tioned to the bumble bee that aerodynamically it is incapable of flight so they both manage very well.

The Welsh poetry lost almost everything in translation but there was always the scenery waving over the speaker's shoulder and the sheep calling for their mothers, Ma, Ma. One poem, Bill Farmer, by R. S. Thomas was always written in English and beautifully spoken by Philip Madoc. It took your breath away: "I am a farmer stripped of love and thought and grace by the land's harshness. But what I am saying over the field's desolate acres rough with dew is 'Listen, listen: I am a man like you'."

And I was forcibly reminded that some poems must be spoken because, well, listen, listen. When he has come out from my mother's kitchen and my comb were on the table under the lamp. For heavens sake, not combs. Combs. Things you stick in your hair.

When Glyn Campbell's boat began to loop the loop in QED (BBC1) the camera was turned on her trailer. And his face was turned

Doug Lucie dealt with a similar face-saving gang in hard feelings, the key difference is that his play has a real moral crisis that exposed their stylish nastiness. Mr Gens has yet to crack the problem (though he came close in *The Paranormalist*) of combining a dynamic plot with his gift for social observation. What he has done, stumblingly, is to suggest that there is a new romanticism abroad and that feminist independence creates personal dilemmas as well as solving them. He hasn't altogether succeeded but he shouldn't be castigated for the attempt.

Mike Radwell's production played on an indoor-outdoor set that suggests an avant-garde Stratford As You Like It and accompanied by sweet Shakespearean music, catches the play's odd mixture of satire and yearning, and there are street scenes, performances from Caroline Goodall as the confusedly ambitious Susan, Garry Cooper as the creative writer who ends up a copy writer and Steven Rinkus as the flummoxed who would sell his soul for a tulip crane. Mr Gens hasn't yet found a structure to match his perceptions, but he does intriguingly suggest that the elixir of youth has somehow been poisoned at source.

SADLER'S WELLS
Mary Clarke

Merce Cunningham

THE Sadler's Wells season by the Merce Cunningham company began its final week with yet two more works new to London and with absolutely no diminution in the thrilling quality of performance.

Trails, made in 1982, is danced to John Cage's *Innocence of Silence* in Mark Lancaster's clear-coloured costumes and is an ideal opening piece. It states most beautifully the technical skill of the dancers and Cunningham's careful concern to write for the dancers as individuals, as company members, and simply as people who dance together finding stimulus and satisfaction in a shared experience of movement.

Native Green is new this year and differs quite a lot



Caroline Goodall at the Royal Court

from the other dances in the repertoire. The composer is John King and his Glies in *Sights* provides a powerful accompaniment (and delights the many young musicians in the audience). The design is by William Anastasi and Dove Bradshaw, who were appointed artistic advisers for the company last year, and, as in *Phrases* which completes this programme, they contribute elaborations upon the basic coloured backdrop and elegant practice dancewear which are characteristic of many present-day Cunningham compositions.

The backdrop here is motley with brown and the costumes are similarly motley while the women wear full, calf-length skirts over their tights. Perhaps it is partly the luscious fabric of these skirts, when the girls sink into a deep pile in second while tracing circles in the air with their arms, which gives part of the work a resemblance to Eastern dance.

Perhaps, too, it is the title which reminds us that this dance has its roots in traditional and folk elements even when they are raised, as here, to the most sophisticated expression. More emphasis is given than is usual with Cunningham (except in his own incomparable *gyration*) to complex arm and hand movements. The dance is for three men and three women and at the end they raise a curious decorated pole which they bend into a mystic arch—another suggestion of ritual.

I've named no dancers this

season because it's impossible to detach individuals from the corporate whole. All are magnificent, and all share the nightly ovations of the company itself, as is proper and as he would wish.

ALMEIDA/ICA
Nicholas de Jongh

Woyzeck/Cambodia

BUCHNER'S *Woyzeck* has never lost the capacity to amaze. Although written 150 years ago, it is as relevant as a two-front nineteenth century drama and modern theatre. Its fragmented scenes, its expressionistic sense of Woyzeck's life as some ineluctable nightmare has encouraged modern directors to subject the piece to radical transformations. And Les Walter's production, originally presented by Leicester Haymarket, still a company, follows in the footsteps of Charles Marowitz and Robert Walker by realigning the play.

He has chosen to set it in a single location, some romantic forest where the tree trunks are menacingly tilted and sport no leaves, and framed by an arc of canvas whose colours change from purple to bloodstained red. Presumably the idea is to stress that the forest where Woyzeck first has his hallucinated vision of cosmic disaster and where he stabs his faithless Marie to death, constitutes the true limits of his world.

It also serves to suggest that his mind never truly leaves the place. And Bernard Strohmer's anti-hero begins the play on such a pitch of terrified foreboding that you feel there can be no change or development. In his cunning, acute performance you see Woyzeck reach a kind of glazed calm and resolve as he plunges the knife in and sees the girl die slowly.

But if this much has psychological force and conviction, the drift of Walter's production is otherwise naive and perverse. The Doctor and the Captain who treat Woyzeck with lofty, ignorant patronage are here played as caricatures of cruel authority, while the text suggests otherwise. Linda Bassett, perver-

se Frank Baker as the Captain are little short of ridiculous in their over-emphasis. The production, set more in the present than the distant past, is otherwise inhibited by a bland playfulness which shows up in the scenes of the circus animals and the interpolated conclusion. Here the doctor, like some fantasy of lesbian consciousness, is seen conducting the autopsy for both Woyzeck and Marie. The text is presumably culled from the original account of the true life Woyzeck's post-mortem and constitutes a rather obvious form of theatrical underlining.

Spalding Gray is an American actor who treats his life as a work of art. Swimming to Cambodia is the latest incident in a career of such fantastic self-absorption that Narcissus himself would blush at such self interest.

Gray subjects his own ego to much examination and a little contempt as he explains how he came to be in Cambodia. In Roland Joffe's *The Killing Fields*, all in the course of some eighty five minutes. By the end I wanted to know a lot less about him.

RONNIE SCOTT'S
John Fordham

James Moody

THAT combination of elegant flute playing, modernist saxophone style, grafted on to the traditions of Lester Young and surreal gobbledygook monologues has made James Moody a perennially popular visitor. Moody made his name with *Dixie Gillespie* in two stints in the Forties and Sixties — but now tours as the leader of small groups performing a lively brew of pop tunes and high-class popular themes.

In his opening performance at Ronnie Scott's on Monday, Moody appeared with a local trio consisting of John Critcherson (piano), Ron Mathewson (bass) and Spike Wells (drums). Always regarded as one of the best of a limited and unevenly talented coterie of jazz flautists he proved the point with a graceful and sweet toned rendition of Waves, in which he managed to impart to an essentially ethereal theme, a sinewy quality it rarely possesses.

Moody the performer swept to the fore in a tenor

Hall). There was decent singing from Elizabeth Collier and Joan Rigby as Frasquita and Mercedes, and Gordon Sandison, Petros Evangelidis, Malcolm Walker and Xavier Degras, performed ably as smugglers and officers.

The stage at Glyndebourne seemed larger, filled with up to 50 people at a time and managing to satisfy the conventional Carman expectations. John Bury's set, with a stunning verisimilitude, depicted the artist's smoke machine to beam, astonishingly large. The chorus sing with youthful ardour, but the production is marred by a lot of misguided belated scenes, playing to the snigger, both among the chorus and on the part of Miss Ewing, who always likes to roll her eyes and wave her lips at us.

This depressingly unimpressive Carman may be an example of regressive things to come when Hall's colleague Bernard Haitink takes over at Covent Garden, where less not more conservatism is needed. This Carman is a case of pure narrative as a theatrical method applied to opera. Hall seems to be saying, if you tell the tale, you can't have the ideas and implications that come from the audience wanting to see their minds to that side of the matter, so be it.

But the depths in Carman are not all apparent. When Nietzsche said the work put over its moving, tragic mission by avoiding "the lie of the grand style," he was not expecting grandeur to be replaced by petty bourgeois, pretty, operative conventions. In today's terms, well-dressed naturalism is the lie to be avoided.

Hall used to deplore "the comfort of convention," and he once told me, "For me there's no point in going to the theatre just to be entertained." But if he has now decided that opera is best served by unadventurous and unchallenging naturalism, it looks very much as though he's betrayed his old beliefs and gone over to the philistines.

away because he couldn't watch. When man and camera swung round there was a waterspout, two terrified birds were taking off and a piece of wood was going straight up like gunfire. It was, as everyone has said, a carbon copy of Donald Campbell's accident, a 360 degree cartwheel at 300m.p.h. Her father's body was never recovered, though his Teddy bear mascot surfaced. She took the same bear on her own record attempt: "Poor little old. He says 'That's twice now'."

In spite of the race language she is a beautifully little lady, a small, neat, rather posh, very fair. Physically not much like her father, but driven "To prove I am made of the same stuff."

"I'm never ever going to get married again. It's not necessary," she said. I can think of one good reason. It would change her name.

My reader suggests that the peagreen peregrine in Behind the Lines (BBC2), which stands in such daily danger of being eaten by Royal Marines, should be called Worshipful. I don't understand this at all. Possibly it is a pun.

rendition of Charlie Parker's *Au Privage*, a popular bebop blues that cycles through a succession of stuttering, blurted phrases before hurtling into the par of up tempo swing. The leader approached it first with a calm deliberation, accelerating into raw squeals and growls at the resolutions of phrases and eventually acquiring a raucous and mildly menacing tone reminiscent of a restrained Dexter Gordon, particularly in that artist's penchant for making his accents sound like car horns.

In the course of it, John Critcherson played a handful of stirring choruses that made the entire band suddenly fuse into a collectively spontaneous entity. Moody is in residence until the end of the week.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA LONDON COLLECTIVE

St. Martin's Lane WC2
Box Office 01-234 3161 CC 01-240 5250

TOMORROW at 7.00
then May 30 &
continuing in June

New production of Michael Tippett's "most lyrical" opera
The Midsummer Marriage

"... under Mark Elder's charge the music came across with glorious exuberance, luxuriant vocal lyricism & instrumental finesse" *Standard*

STANDBY £6 from 6.15pm

Mick Brown sees Hank Wangford take to the Theatre Royal stage in Chaps

Clown country

IT WOULD be inaccurate to describe Chaps, featuring Hank Wangford, professional jargonologist and some time country music parodist, as a play or even a musical. Both suggest some sort of plot or narrative which is, in fact, absent. The play is a series of songs loosely connected by flights of absurdity, fantasy on cowboy manners and conventions.

Chaps is certainly an advertisement for a cowboy song of the kind proposed by a Kentucky colonel, snake-oil salesman type, a Gabe Rogers lookalike, and a cowboy country music hand named by the irrepressible Wangford — a lugubrious heavy-eyed man in an ill fitting, Hank Williams suit, the man who turns real pain into champagne and so on. The puns are as high as an elephant's thigh — or the region thereabouts.

Country music and country manners are hard to parody, the real thing is often a parody in itself. But Wangford pushes it one step further towards the borders of surrealism, leaving a disorienting, evoking a world where homespun values are turned to the cause of necessary opportunism — "If you can't put a price on it, it's worth a thing" — veiled in sincerity of the most transparently mawkish kind.

As a production this has all the finesse of an end-of-the-pier play, a light, strained Western accents and makeshift props, with even the inevitable audience participation parodied by an ingenuous youth being initiated into the world of the dying, lying bird of uncertainty. The most constant factor is Wangford's music. He appears to be simultaneously extending the targets of parody — gospel and hippy — and within reason, and polishing up the proficiency of the group. Even without the absurdist themes the Wangford band would make a creditable turn in any concert hall. With Bony Valentine's quicksilver fiddle playing and rich, baritone holiday and Lefty Frizzelle — an attraction in itself.

Spectacle, wonder, hilarity. Chaps has none of these things, but one does have an idiotic smile, planted firmly on the face.

CLOWNS'N THINGS

clowns, jugglers, competitions, musicals, a day of fun for children!

BARBICAN CENTRE
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
FROM 12 NOON

NT

NEXT PERFS OF AN ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION

Goldsmith's classic masterpiece

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

A FARCICAL COMEDY

Dora Bryan ...
"worth walking a hundred miles to see" (Chorus)

"Surprise and delights lie in wait around every corner" (Time Out)

Lyttelton: Tonight, Tomorrow and Mon at 7.45.
Sat at 3.00 & 7.45

Standby: Any unsold seats at low prices from 2 hours before performance

NATIONAL THEATRE

Box Office 01-234 3161 CC 01-240 5250



Len McKern in *The Chain* (left); Sheila McLaughlin in *Committed* (above); Kelly McGillis, Lukas Haas, and Harrison Ford in *Witness*



Tim Palleine reviews Marisa Silver's first feature, *Old Enough*, Peter Weir's first film in America, *Witness*, and the rest of the week's new releases

Sweet birds of youth take flight

IN THE CINEMA, as elsewhere, the theme of growing up, of negotiating a rite of passage between childhood and adulthood, is well-served. But a film as winning as *Old Enough* (Academy, PG) a first feature by writer-director Marisa Silver, offers a reassuring reminder that given a touch of the poet, the old tunes can still sound the best.

The locale is New York during a long summer holiday, the central figure, Lonnie, the daughter—aged, in her own words, almost eleven and three quarters—of a well-off professional couple. She makes the chance acquaintance of Karen, a slightly older girl from a different—Roman Catholic, working-class—background, who affects to be more worldly wise yet in her own way is the more vulnerable.

The relationship that

develops between them, at once defensive and free from constraint, and complicated by the presence of Karen's nervous, cocksure older brother, draws us into an adolescent borderland.

Fantasy remains a key element; Lonnie's strategems to skip a dreary summer camp are invested with every truant's melodramatic glee, and the girls weave a spell of exotism around a flamboyant neighbour, though when they trail her to a supposed assignment, she mundanely proves to be only on her way to work.

In such details as Karen's crash course in Catholic dogma for the agnostically raised Lonnie, the film is often extremely funny; it is touching too, but in not shirking the callousness of youth, it avoids false sentiment. A subject such as this depends

crucially on performance, and Silver has won from Sarah Boyd (Lonnie) and Rainbow Harvest (Karen) playing of marvellously unforced appeal.

The effect lies in the writing, too, and in particular the scenes between Lonnie and her pretty, preoccupied mother (Fran Brill) evoke the truth between the lines of speech and gesture, as well as touching on the annoying tendency of parents to assume that what their offspring enjoyed last year they will necessarily want to do this.

The fashioning of a dramatic climax may be a little uneasy; and while Michael Ballhaus's cinematography is often handsome, its burlesque quality brings a touch of academicism to the film. One can't help craving for black-and-white, with its more ready sense of spon-

taneity. All the same, this is a movie to cherish: at its best it pulls off the trick of making the camera seem to disappear and granting the viewer a privileged look through a window on that most elusive of properties, everyday life.

Where *Old Enough* is indigenously a New York movie, *Witness* (Plaza, etc. 15), belongs to Hollywood's immigrant tradition. This is the first work in America of the distinguished Australian director Peter Weir and a film in which response to unusual surroundings is central to its effect.

The milieu is self-consciously distinctive: an Amish farming community in Pennsylvania, though the framework of the story belongs to the crime thriller. Harrison Ford is a policeman investigating a murder to which a small Amish boy has been a

witness during a visit to Philadelphia. But the killing proved to be linked to venality in high places, and cop as well as child become marked for termination with prejudice, with the result that Ford goes to earth at the Amish farm.

The two parts of the narrative do not really gel. The detective, predictably vulnerable beneath his hard-bitten exterior, is a figure too remote for us to care how he reacts to the rustic, non-violent life; and the long central passage detailing his unaccommodated affair with the boy's widowed mother (Kelly McGillis) strays toward the sentimental and at times the frankly touristic.

The concluding Western-like sequences, when a trio of big-city gunmen close in on the isolated family, are pointedly staged and exciting. But the inconclusive

ending, once the shoot-out is over, perhaps testifies to the preceding lack of substance.

Apart from bereavement and divorce, moving home is the most traumatic experience the average person undergoes, according to a character in *The Chain* (Odeon Haymarket, PG) and it is easy to believe him. The subject has a built-in appeal to the masochist in most of us. In addition, the circular form of Jack Gold's amusing film, scripted by Jack Rosenblum, draws you in to one mini-drama after another as the vendors' and purchasers' quadrille is danced with many a false step in a upwardly mobile arc from Hackney to Hammersmith to Holland Park.

The film is strongly played by a company that includes both familiar faces and newcomers; among the latter there is a performance of both

charm and attack from Rita Wolf.

Now and again, the emphasis may be over-stressed but it is a pleasure to find a British comedy that is rooted in local observation without succumbing to parochialism.

Nikita Mikhalkov's *A Private Conversation* (Phoenix, East Finchley, PG) is a real oddity, but a pretty irresistible one, a two-hander adapted (it is not hard to deduce) from the stage, in which a woman and her ex-husband confusingly relive a succession of marital and other vicissitudes, ingenious stage management and technical trickery in the matter of lighting and dissolves are no substitute for thematic clarity or the capacity to get us involved with the protagonists.

Committed (Screen at the Electric), made by Sheila

McLaughlin and Lynne Tillman, offers a harsh, impressionistic account of the unhappy life of actress Frances Farmer (played by McLaughlin). A satisfactory antidote to the evasiveness of the recent Hollywood biopic *Frances*, the film nevertheless fails to cohere into any very satisfying interpretation of its own.

Wild Geese II (Warner, etc. 15) holds out the promise of a rip-roaring Mad Magazine-type farce at the expense of a lurid espionage fiction, involving the springing from Spandau of Rudolf Hess, disguised as a drink-sozzled footballer, at the behest of a megalomaniac TV executive in search of a scoop. Guffaws are stifled not only by the slow-moving plot and gratuitous violence but at the bewildering realisation that the whole thing is supposed to be taken seriously.

CANNES: Derek Malcolm reports on the festival's major prize-winners

Hollywood's big palm-off

IT WAS perhaps poetic justice that, in the very year the organisers of the Festival of Cannes returned to the festival, the grand jury insisted on giving the Golden Palm to a little-known Yugoslavian director.

Most people thought this was chiefly the doing of Milos Forman, president of the jury, since Emir Kusturica, whose *Daddy's On a Business Trip* won the most coveted Festival award, was trained at the same Prague Film School in which Forman learnt his craft so well.

The film, which is about a young boy growing up during the Stalinist period when his father has fallen foul of the authorities, has many touches which remind one of the best cinema of the late sixties. Though far too long—unlike such movies as *Forman's* *Blonde in Love* or *Mensel's* *Closely Observed Trains*—it is funny, mordant and full of the same sympathy for the individual against the system.

Not a bad prize-winner at all, in fact; though certainly a surprising choice, Hollywood will not be best pleased.

Britain, however, had something to cheer about, since Alan Parker's *Birdy*, though not really a British film, got the Special Prize of the Jury.

Birdy, like *Midnight Express* before it, received an Oscar nomination without quite convincing the jury that it was the best film on display. But this time there were no accusations that Parker had made a reactionary film, as there were with *Midnight Express*. In fact, the jury commended the film for its positive approach.

That was the "special grand prize of the jury". Istvan Szabo won the grand prize with *Col Redi*, which had been heavily tipped for the Golden Palm. But it was not to be Hungary's Festival since Klaus Maria Brandauer, the leading actor, favourite for the acting prize, also failed to catch the jury's eye.

Instead, the Best Actor prize went to William Hurt as the homosexual prisoner in Heitor Babenco's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; and Cher, who is excellent in Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask*, shared the best actress award with Norma Aleandro from the Brazilian entrant, *The Official History*.

Britain came out of the festival quite well, since Nicholas Roeg's *Insignificance* won the Technicians Prize, Mike Newell's *Dance With a Stranger* was adjudged the best non-French entry in the Director's Fortnight and Malcolm Mowbray's *A Private Function* was much liked in the section entitled *Un Certain Regard*.

Even so, the general opinion was that the very moderate festival this year, with far too much attention paid to the kind of Hollywood films that scarcely needed a festival outing. But then Hollywood is big business, and that is what the organisers were after. The presence at the festival of James Stewart (with *The Glen Miller Story*), Clint Eastwood, and Cher, among others, signalled quite a lot.

Not, however, to the international critics, who were infuriated that the announcement of the prizes was held up especially for Eurovision. One suggestion was that next



Matthew Modine in Alan Parker's prize-winning film, *Birdy*

year the prizes could be awarded in the same way as the Eurovision Song Contest. But even Cannes might think that was going too far.

Anyways, the critics gave their prize ex aequo to the Yugoslavian film and to Woody Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, which was out of competition; and the Golden Camera for the best first film went to Venezuela for a film called *Orlane* which scarcely seemed to merit it.

It was not, however, as silly an award as that of the main

jury who dubbed Andre Techine as Best Director for a dreadful piece called *Rendezvous*. Poor old Godard got nothing at all for *Detective*, a much superior effort, and Clint Eastwood's sojourn on a yacht in the bay, in support of his Pale Rider, went unrewarded too.

"There is no science to choosing the prizes," said Forman, a trifle elliptically. "We used our heads and our hearts, and where the heart is concerned there is often injustice."

Wings and a prayer

Chris Burkham joins the small fry on the fringe

Michael Coulson and Nichola Bruce, co-directors of *Wings of Death*



IN THE small St Cinema on the Rue D'Antibes, Nichola Bruce is sitting at the edge of the aisle—"in case I want to leave." Out in the foyer Michael Coulson is pushing a chewing gum into his mouth, too nervous to even enter the auditorium. Four minutes too long to be officially entered in the shorts category of the Cannes Film Festival, their 15-minute film *Wings of Death* is receiving its first public screening.

It was only a week earlier that Bruce and Coulson decided to travel to Cannes for the premiere of the latest film they have written and directed together. They arrived on the Thursday evening totting a bundle of posters to hypost the town with that night. Instead they are immediately thrown into the carnivorous atmosphere of the Cannes first night party for the Coca Cola Kid in a beach-front restaurant.

They hand out postcards promoting *Wings of Death* (A tragedy)—a tragic in that it's easier to get heroin than a job in Britain—to the producers, directors, stars and would-be quaffing free liquor. Tourists and locals near down at them from above.

Hungover the following morning, they push through the Cannes veterans, accredited cards slung round their necks like so many dog-tags, to film in the forms for their own passes. This is Cannes on the cheap—they share four

shots in a photo-booth strip two apiece. Their "accommodation" is two sofas in the offices of Palace Pictures. All around them in the New Palace the talk is of deals and percentages, of films worth seeing and of those not worth mentioning. They pin posters in prime positions on the British Film Year stand.

Behind them American mass entertainment is pumped out non-stop from a bank of video monitors. "Now that's how you should promote films," grins Coulson, returning his gaze to the single British screen, set back almost out of sight from the thoroughfare. It is showing *The Company of Wolves*, for which they draw the storyboard.

Out on the streets they tape up posters, beneath billboards for Clint Eastwood's film, on telephone boxes, in shops and cafes. Only the Carlton Hotel—where Jean Luc Godard and Menahem Golan write two million dollar contracts on a napkin—turns them away.

Bruce and Coulson, who met at Middlesex Polytechnic in the 70s and formed Muscle Films in the aftermath of punk, are small beer in this world. Cannes could be their first step up. "The reason for bringing the film to Cannes was to sell it and get it seen—which is the whole point, even if only on a toilet wall. The *Wings of Death* perme bodes well. The Star Cinema fills up with a respectable-sized audience.

The American producer of *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, David Weisman, arrives with three Soviet film buyers. Then there's Steve Woolley and Paul Webster from Palace, Simon Relph, the producer of *Wetherby*.

"The reaction is positive. People seem surprised by the intensity of the imagery," remarks Bruce afterwards. It is a film about obsession; Dexter Fletcher (now filming *Revolution* with Al Pacino) plays a heroin addict during his final hours in a hotel room. It is direction rather than the writing which is the film's strength.

The film feels like a trailer for a feature in its use of the big screen.

"I had expected the place to be vile," admits Coulson the following day, "but it's

actually pretty exciting." The two of them are beginning to feel slightly frazzled by the never-ending activity around them. The festival is as unrelaxing as a film set—the enforced proximity to so many people, the late nights and early mornings.

"It was a risk showing the film so late," admits Bruce, "showing it in such a small cinema with no attendant, glamour, no party, no big support—just with flyposting and word of mouth. The fruits of it won't really be known for some time. At least it drew in a lot of interesting people."

There was one positive result: festivals in New York, Australia and Edinburgh have shown an interest. *Wings of Death* may have "transcended the idea of a short," according to one producer.

BRIEFING

Best films

The Grey Fox (Screen on the Hill). Appealing and distinctive Canadian western with stand-out performance by veteran Richard Farnsworth. **Starman** (Leicester Square). The human face of sci-fi in John Carpenter's beautifully crafted road movie with a difference. **A Love in Germany** (Chelsea and Camden Plaza). Warm, uneven but powerful impression of small town life in wartime Germany. **The Times of Harvey Milk** (Academy). Oscar-winning documentary on assassinated gay politician: self-reflecting in means, impassioned in effect. **The Cotton Club** (Odeon, Leicester Square). Coppola's far-left blockbuster of folk-

de grandeur: remarkable incidentals in search of a framework.

Best on TV

Babylon (Friday, C4, 11.30). Strongly felt and persuasively made view of life among black teenagers in Britain (made 1960). **I Wonder Who's Kissing Her** (Saturday, C4, 2 pm). June Haver in agreeable Fox musical (1947); sturdy songs, back-of-envelope script. **The Square Peg** (Sunday, BBC, 1.3 pm). Best of the Norman Wisdom farces, rough and ready but enthusiastically ridiculous. **The Awful Truth** (Sunday, C4, 10.15). High-spirited screwball comedy (1937) with filmable playing by Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. **With a Song in My Heart** (Monday, C4, 2.25). Handsomely mounted biopic of singer Jane Brown with all-

stops-out performance by Susan Hayward. **Death in Venice** (Monday, BBC, 2.25). Visconti's celebrated and (perhaps) overly sumptuous version of Mann's novel; exceptional playing by Dirk Bogarde.

New on video

Virgin Video has released 1984 on its Premiere label, and other new titles available from the company include James Ivory's *Hush* and *Over George and Bonnie's Pictures*.

Special interest

The National Film Theatre's *Dancin'* season of musicals includes several neglected movies, among them *Mother Wore Tights* (tonight), *Lullaby of Broadway* (Saturday) and Stanley Donen's *Give a Girl a Break* (Friday). On Tuesday, David Thomson, the brilliant film

critic, gives a Guardian Lecture in connection with the publication of his novel *Suspects*.

From Monday to Friday, the Hampstead Everyman is mounting an ambitious season of music videos, which will be embellished by a discussion of the genre (Monday) and a live performance (Friday) by the Australian band *Severed Heads*.

The Scala, Kings Cross, starts a week-long Russ Meyer retrospective on Saturday.

Outside London

Malvern's Fringe Arts Festival has showings of *Cal* (tonight) and *The Ploughman's Lunch* (Tuesday), with a British film weekend on June 1 and 2 at the Tudor Hotel, Great Malvern. Films in the Dolton and Dowland Festival, Devon, include *Paris, Texas* (today and tomorrow) and *La*

Balance (Tuesday and Wednesday). Derek Jarman's adaptation of *The Tempest* and Celestino Coronado's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are to be seen at the Chapter, Cardiff, until Tuesday. Bradford's Museum of Photography has a Carlos Saura double, *Blood Wedding* and *Carmen*, on Saturday and Sunday, while Altman's *Secret Honour* is at Bradford Film Theatre for three days from Wednesday.

The Powell and Pressburger double at the Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle, on Sunday is *The Spy in Black* and *The Thief of Baghdad*. The Japanese season at Ipswich Film Theatre takes in *Gate of Hell* on Sunday. The Duke of York, Lancaster, shows the Talking Heads movie *Stop Making Sense* on Sunday and Monday.

Tim Palleine

THE FACE

JESUS+MARY CHAIN the gospel truth.

The growing pains of **PAUL WELLER**

TERENCE CONRAN in the **FACE** interview

Fame at last for **HARRY DEAN STANTON**

FASHION! Vivienne Westwood on the London/Paris Collections

Bazooka, John Galiano, Buffalo Boys and BEEF!

TAKE IT ON THE CHIN — IN JUNE'S THE FACE, 85p

This year, next year, something

Teachers and employers sit down again today in the Burnham negotiating committee with a resolution of the 1985 pay dispute still far off. Industrial action by the biggest teachers' union, the NUT, is larger than ever this week. Meanwhile, following Monday's ministerial council of war at 10 Downing Street, there is no more money on the table for this year. Mrs Thatcher, as she repeated to the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, is toughing it out for the Government's existing 4 per cent offer, while the unions are still officially sticking out for 12. The best that the unions can hope for today is that the increasingly sympathetic local authorities will offer to cobble together a 6 per cent package. The political momentum for that level of improvement is certainly there. The shire county elections have pushed the balance among the employers' representatives on Burnham to the teachers' way. Several previously hard-line Tory authorities have swung round behind the NUT's demand for a better offer. And Tory backbench MPs have begun putting their names to a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to negotiate with the teachers in "a spirit of goodwill." But it is still a long way short of what the teachers want and need.

The instinctive reaction of any old union hand is not to be put off by these off-stage noises. Keep your eyes on the table, they say, and count the real money that is actually being put forward. This attitude clearly lay behind the unions' immediate reaction to Tuesday night's initiative from the Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph. Sir Keith emerged from Monday's Downing Street session with permission to dangle more money for next year in front of the unions—but with nothing on offer this time round. On Tuesday he wrote to the education authorities proposing a 1986-7 package of extra pay in return for agreement in principle on new contracts of service. The unions' first responses were scornful. Yesterday, however, a more reflective tone was adopted by the NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr Doug McEvoy, traditionally a hard money on the table man. After a good night's sleep, Mr McEvoy had

discovered that Sir Keith was offering concessions and improved wording on new contracts. The NUT, he said, would be willing to negotiate in due course.

In all the circumstances, the NUT has little alternative but to pick up that olive branch. Gradually, the unions are winning modest gains on all fronts. But their chances of a knock-out victory on this year's dispute are getting slimmer. The summer holidays loom and, with them, inevitable loss of momentum towards further concessions. What is more, the Government is winning its battle with Labour local authorities over their spending plans. It is not going to jeopardise this agonisingly achieved success with a sudden injection of new funds for any purpose. This is not to say that an improved offer cannot—still less, should not—be put together by a combination of creative accountancy and political will. But the reality has always been that the teachers will not get the level of pay improvement which they want, and deserve, without some form of package deal on contracts. A further year's wait for the big one is therefore a modest price to pay. Sir Keith, however, has still got something to prove. He should say soon how much money is available for 1986. A public commitment now to a figure will help him in his own dealings with the Treasury. It will help the unions to sell this year's more modest settlement to their members. And it will reassure the teachers that, with inflation rising, they are not merely being fobbed off with vague assurances.

Much shuffling in the dark

Mrs Margaret Thatcher may or may not be planning a sweeping minimal Cabinet reshuffle this summer/autumn/next year. Five greying and senior heads may or may not be on the Downing Street hit list. Mr Norman Tebbit may or may not become party chairman this year or next year. And that, for all the frissons of mutually contradictory excitement pulsing through the Conservative Party's Fleet Street house organs, is just about the sum of knowledge in the perennially speculative area of reshuffles that haven't happened yet. Indeed, if Mrs Thatcher shares the common human trait of not deciding about these things too far in advance, that is probably as much as she knows too.

A consensus of speculation would probably, at this moment, seal Mr Tebbit's ac-

cession to Smith Square early in the autumn; resurrect Mr Cecil Parkinson at Trade; see Mr Peter Rees depart the Treasury for the tax bar; punish Mr Michael Jopling; and, give or take the odd tinker, leave the team she has as the team that faces the electorate two or three years hence. And, on most past form, Mrs Thatcher might rate good marks for such prudence. Unlike her Labour predecessors she has not chopped and changed fretfully. A Wilsonian ritual that gave the veneer of freshness to a Cabinet which seldom had time to master the details of its briefs.

But... this time there is a big But. Any rational political analyst arriving fresh on the British scene, to proffer advice would surely find the likely course of events, and the alternative, speedier course urged on Mrs Thatcher by her unpaid press advisers, a little on the dot side. It is one of those debates built on rumour which has twisted and turned over months with a life of its own, so that what you get at the end in no way resembles what you might have had if you'd started from Square One. Take Mr (putative) Chairman Tebbit. A formidable hatchetman and political operator who inevitably (and rightly) developed an extra dimension of public sympathy as he was dragged, last year, from the rubble of the Grand Hotel. At present, it may be argued, the Conservatives have a rather feeble chairman, both organisationally and presentationally. How much wiser then to shift a national, instantly recognisable figure into that post (especially if it lifts the burden of running a large Government department from his shoulders)? On one level, it all makes sense. But turn the question around and ask what sort of front man a Conservative Party drooping pitifully in today's Marplan needs? What sort of message should he convey? Mr Tebbit conveyed his own personal message clearly enough on Tuesday night at the — curiously well-televised — CBI dinner. It was bark and bite, scorn and unrelenting determination to change nothing. If the Tories are vulnerable in the polls to charges of "not caring" about unemployment, then would Mr Thatcher be wise to put her toughest bower boy at the head of the 1987 panzers? Equally, will the political demise of Mr Rees or Mr Jopling matter one whit?

A dispassionate political analyst might, in fact, note rather different things about the plight and prospects of the Government. He might, for a start, be impressed by a ripe crop of relatively young talent in waiting for high office: the Pattons, Chris and

John; Mr Tony Newton, Mr Norman Lamont, Miss Lynda Chalker, Mr Kenneth Baker, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Mr Kenneth Clarke. And there are at least half a dozen other names—wet and dry—who could be on that list. These people, he'd say, are around the age of the three leaders of the Opposition parties. They're good in the House, on their feet. And they look as though they've enthusiasm to get to work on a third term of government which is the point of the exercise. Meanwhile the real trouble for the Government you've got, Ma'am, is the fact that the three most really senior posts in it, the posts that help a Prime Minister set the tone of her administration, are occupied by Mr Lawson, Mr Brittan and Sir Geoffrey. Excellent fellows, no doubt, but not precisely heart-stoppers. If you really want to make a difference, you'd get on with a sweeping reshuffle that made your whole team seem younger and fitter and more reasonable and more eloquent.

That, though, is just the sort of advice which Mrs Thatcher, on her track record, is least likely to heed: for criticisms of her most important choices are, of course, implicit criticisms of her own judgment. So we'll continue to hear a deal more about Mr Tebbit's future, and Mr Peter Rees's delinquent future, as though such stuff were really a response to the problem. Meanwhile the grey nooks and crannies of the possible—like Lord Hailsham's eventual retirement from the Woolsack—will continue to be clogged up by irritating bits of reality: if he goes and Sir Michael Havers gets the job, can we remotely chance a byelection in Wimbledon? It will all be a good deal less pulsating in practice than the wonderful world of what might or might not be, the world where pundits earn their corn and Prime Ministers are suddenly free, at a strike, to set the heavens resounding.

Pretoria's atom bomb

The anti-apartheid campaign in the United States, having had the wit to exploit that country's Freedom of Information Act, has now managed to produce the best evidence we are likely to get that South Africa is an unacknowledged member of the nuclear club. As we reported yesterday, the US Naval Research Laboratory studied a mysterious double flash over the Prince Edward Islands picked up by an American

satellite in the early hours of September 22, 1979, from the southern Indian Ocean and concluded with confidence that it had been a nuclear explosion in the atmosphere. The evidence remains purely circumstantial, as it must in the absence of a proclamation from Pretoria, but it is now a lot more solid than it was.

Whatever other sentiments the vision of a nuclear-armed South Africa may evoke, surprise isn't one of them. Pretoria has been engaged in nuclear research for a generation because it has large uranium deposits and a chronic energy problem. Its painfully, expensively and stealthily acquired expertise was bound to engender thoughts of military applications in South Africa's strategic circumstances. In 1982, on the unveiling of a highly sophisticated heavy artillery system, Armscor, the state weapons manufacturer, publicly boasted that the gun could fire a nuclear shell.

Even the smallest tactical nuclear weapons would have decidedly ambiguous value against generalised internal unrest in South Africa. They could be seen as a greater worth against a "total onslaught" from the north, but even South African propaganda now appears to regard such a development as inconceivable in the foreseeable future. Taking the low yield of the imputed 1979 test and Pretoria's confirmation that its 155mm howitzer can fire a nuclear warhead together, we may conclude that South Africa has all the nuclear weapons capacity it can imagine itself needing, whether as a deterrent or as a last resort for some kind of Gotterdammerung. Even with its ageing air force, South Africa looks invulnerable on the ground where it matters and overt nuclear posturing might provoke unwelcome attention from the superpowers. The strategic position in the sub-continent therefore remains broadly the same.

One is left wondering why Pretoria bothered. The answer may lie in the Middle East and in the entirely different strategic calculations of South Africa's silent partner in a whole range of military and nuclear enterprises, Israel. The newly unearthed American documents also add to the circumstantial evidence of nuclear cooperation between Israel, which is known to have advanced technology, and South Africa, which has not only the uranium (and later its own enrichment facilities) but also the ability to find the necessary empty space for conducting tests. Thus the belated discovery concerning the mysterious explosion near the Antarctic Circle nearly six years ago needs close study much further north in the world than appearances suggest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How the Home Office discriminates

Sir—The Home Secretary will no doubt repeat in the debate today the claim he made to the UK Immigrants Advisory Service that the immigration rules are not discriminatory. But he was certainly wrong until 1980, but there was a major change then.

Despite the possession of the racist, primary immigration from the new Commonwealth ended in the mid-70s, save for those coming for marriage. Even when there was no restraint on such applications between 1975 and 1977, the number of women coming for marriage far exceeded the men.

The change in rules in 1977 stopped the very few bogus marriages, but the Conservatives were still paranoid about the possibility of an increasing number of men coming from the

subcontinent. At the peak in 1977, the total was only 3,500, whom we could well accommodate.

But this Government decided to put a stop to that sort of immigration by introducing rules which were plainly directed solely at the Asian arranged marriage system. Both the Immigration Tribunal and Mr Justice Forbes, in the test case of *Bhatia*, accepted that only arranged marriages are subject to the rule that the man must prove that his primary purpose was not to enter the UK.

Under the rule hundreds of fiances have been refused entry, as have more than 350 husbands, many with children in Britain whom they have never seen. That rule is racially discriminatory because it is directed only at Asians. In every case refused it is

accepted that the marriage is genuine, and the couple will probably live together for the rest of their lives.

If the Soviet Union were to treat finances and husbands in this way, there would be an outcry. I am sure that the rule is a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. It is intolerable that such misery should be suffered by young British women of Asian origin for the sake of appeasing the small minority of racists in this country.

Similar misery is suffered by the wives and families who have been waiting in Pakistan, and particularly Bangladesh, for many years to join their husbands here. As the Commission for Racial Equality report clearly shows, the system is designed to impede the reunion of families on the

slimmest of evidence. The only civilised policy to adopt is to change the rules so that the Home Office has to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a claim to family relationship is false. The House of Lords has hinted that that should be the rule when an immigrant is suspected of fraud. But it is surely much more important that a family should not be broken up than that a criminal charge should be proved.

The criminal burden of proof need not be used for people coming for temporary stay, such as visitors or students. But it is essential to use it for family relationships. Until we do, the appalling treatment of black people by this country will not end.—Yours sincerely,

Alex Lyon,
23 Larkhall Rise,
London SW4.

Why it's the Eurocommunists who are the hardliners



Sir—In a number of your reports and articles on the current divisions within the Communist party of Great Britain, there has been a tendency to categorise those who have been disciplined and expelled as "hardliners" and "Stalinists" rejecting a new, creative, democratic Marxism.

The bitter truth is that the Eurocommunist group now in the majority on the executive has committed itself publicly to policies somewhat to the right of Kinnock and is preparing to impose them ruthlessly upon those who have been disciplined and expelled.

It has endorsed the view that socialism in Britain is not on the agenda; the labour movement should be controlled through an incomes policy; that Britain should remain in the EEC; and class analysis is obsolete.

But how are we to understand some of the central issues of our time—peace, women's liberation, the environment, democratic rights, racism and apartheid—unless we see the ways in which the political, social, and cultural life of our society is dominated, as Marx correctly argued, by the relation between those who have wealth and power and the capitalist class—and those whom they exploit and oppress?

I believe socialism in Britain can be achieved only through a profound transformation of present capitalist society: the creation of a rich and multifaceted democracy in which ordinary people would experience power not as wielded by others, but which they themselves can use to build a more truly human society. It is essential in this process to safeguard and extend fundamental human rights whether they be economic, political, social or legal.

During the Communist Party's special congress, a cynical contempt was shown for democracy and the rights of ordinary party members, particularly those disciplined. Those expelled and suspended have been slandered, humiliated and silenced by tactics that bring to mind the nightmare trials of the thirties.

In his article (May 21) Martin Lindsay argues that those victimised have political positions close to many on the Left of the Labour movement. This is undoubtedly true. I am sure that the latter reject descriptions of themselves as "Stalinist" and "sectarian" and feel as revolted as I do that honest and principled people have been driven out of the Communist Party of Great Britain.—Yours sincerely,

Irene Brennan,
20a Upper Addison Gardens,
London W14.

When charm is not enough to win over the media

Sir—Patrick Wintour is correct to point out in his article on the media and the miners' strike (May 21) that there were weaknesses in the NUT's media strategy. No doubt the union itself would admit to the difficulties of competing with the highly organised, highly resourced NCB press office.

The emphasis given to this point, however, entirely underestimates and misrepresents the real forces with which the NUT had to contend.

These are the forces which weigh heavily against every movement ranged outside the NUT's media strategy. To establish that the media generally favour them. They are the material and ideological forces reflected in the patterns of ownership, control, and employment in the industry.

In Digging Deeper, a book on the strike, Alan Fountaine, a commissioning editor at Channel 4 reminds us that "not only are the individual (television) companies completely undemocratic in their organisation, structure, and decision making but also that their controlling bodies—the BBC governors and the IBA board—are constituted entirely by appointment. Because of their composition, the dice are loaded heavily in these institutions against the interests of the working class and its allies."

We should also remember the capacity of those in power to use and strengthen the means of communication easily available to them. In the case of this important dispute the Government and Coal Board used the media, directly and indirectly, to

shape public opinion and thereby construct a definition of what the strike was about.

It is understandable that friendly media practitioners should suggest that we use the media more effectively. This advice, which our campaign also gives, is important because in small ways it regulates the arbitrary use of power by editors, proprietors, and governors.

However, a better media strategy will not in itself overcome the real antagonism, differences, and inequalities between the media institutions and the organised labour movement. To pretend that it will is to create an illusion certain to increase the frustration, despair, and pessimism about the media that is already rife within the labour movement.

Any strategy for dealing with the media will inevitably come up against the reality of power in our society. It is the role of a campaign like ours to promote an awareness of that among those who control the means of expression, and to change the methods by which they do so.

So far we have met a cynical response from most, though not all, sections of the industry. This attitude and the way the media operate during the mining dispute damaged their credibility among thousands of people in the mining communities who day by day failed to recognise that their own struggle as reflected in newspapers and on television.

Yours sincerely,
Loretta Loach,
(Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, London W1).

Arabian nights with Seven Pillars Of Wisdom

Sir—The "message from the grave of Lawrence of Arabia" (Guardian, May 20), is substantiated in several respects by an anecdote told to me years ago. I doubt if it has previously been made public.

It came from the late Dudley Ward, close friend of Rupert Brooke, of Maynard Keynes, and part of the Bloomsbury Group. He was also a Treasury official with

Keynes at the end of the first world war and at the Versailles peace conference. There in the corridors he came to the grave of a man. They fell into conversation and found that Dudley from the Treasury had been sending boxes of golden sovereigns to help his campaign in Arabia—for indeed it was Lawrence, whom he had not met. The man was in a state

of shock, and needed a sympathetic ear which my dear friend provided. It resulted in Lawrence coming to Dudley's hotel every evening for eight or nine days and sitting in a chair, closing his eyes, and recounting fantastic stories of events and episodes in Arabia.

It all sprang from the deep, bitter disillusionment he had felt on coming to Versailles to find that the promises of an Arab kingdom which he had given, had no foundation in British Middle East policy.

Underrated

Sir—You report (May 10) a large decrease in foreign students studying in Britain. On the previous Friday a government official in Malaysia gave me the following annual costs of sending students to various countries: UK £11,000, US \$9,500, Canada, Australia \$8,000, Belgium \$6,000, Bangladesh \$2,000.

The annual cost to Malaysia of sending students abroad is about \$300 millions, so it is actively exploring these European and other countries who charge negligible fees (Belgium, West Germany, etc.).

If one regards higher education mainly as a consumable activity rather like package holidays, this is a cause for concern, confirming market forces. If there are long-term economic and other consequences attached to higher education, it is deeply worrying.

Miscellany at Large

Sir—It is interesting to note that Professor Robert Morris holder of the first Koestler Chair of Parapsychology (Guardian, May 20) has no apparent acquaintance with philosophy or sociology. If he had, he would have realised that philosophers have shown why there can be no paranormal phenomena, and sociologists why they continue to be believed in.

Professor Morris is wasting his time and, I hope, only Koestler's money.

Ray Enfield,
University of Warwick.

Sir—Surely, the most boorish behaviour of the Cup Final arose as the royal personage studiously avoided any suggestion of communication with the dejected Moran as the latter shuffled dejectedly past the sanctum of presentation.

Geoffrey Moll,
Beccles, Suffolk.

Sir—Harry Whewell's article on hospital eunuchs

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: The sandy grass heaths of West Norfolk, littered with frost-shattered slints of the last Ice Age, have been the scene of dramatic changes over the centuries. Like most of England's countryside, they became largely tree-covered and thronged with deer when milder, wetter climate prevailed, until Neolithic settlers cleared and burned the forest and created a dust-bowl. There followed a long period in which patchy cultivation, sheep grazing and, in Norman times, the introduction of rabbits maintained the open character of the area; and in the 17th century we find John Evelyn describing its spectacular inland sand dunes and a rolling plain inhabited by great bustards. In my lifetime vast stretches of this land have been afforested with conifers, while new farming techniques have resulted in much reclamation; but there is still a considerable acreage of rough heathland in use as a training area for the fighting forces and this, in spite of the violent disturbance of army exercises, provides an effective sanctuary for the

THE RECUPERATIVE EFFECTS

of The Macallan Single Highland Malt Whisky have seldom been more strikingly touched upon than in a letter recently received.

"AS A WEE LAD, I once accompanied Grandfather, his khillie, and Ben the Labrador, to fish for salmon; but disaster struck and I fell into the Spey's icy swirling waters.

Ben kept in to retrieve me and, near death, I and the exhausted dog were hauled up the bank.

"Quick, Hamish! The Macallan!" cried Grandfather.

A large dram was poured down Ben's throat and, in a trice, he was on his feet licking the colour back to my frozen cheeks.

"A near thing!" gasped Grandfather.

"Aye," replied Hamish, "Ah dinna ken where we'd ha' found another dog like Ben."

native flora, birds and much other wildlife of peculiar interest. In addition a few of the more important have been saved by the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council, which seek to manage them sensitively so as to maintain their traditional character. Visiting one of the heaths most recently saved from destruction, I have just enjoyed a vision of mosses, dwarf flowering plants in sheep-grazed turf, striped snails still abroad in the overnight dew on a sunny morning, scarlet ladybirds safe from the hazards of crop-spraying, larks cavilling overhead, and lizards basking on tussocks. Curlew, wheatear, and whinchat nest there and green woodpeckers forage in the surrounding forest find delight in the numerous ant-hills. Both acid and chalky soils support their different flora, forming a mosaic of much interest and beauty. It was pleasant to be reminded that Mammot does not rule where conservation is concerned, so long as its aims are supported with generosity by the discerning.

E. A. ELLIS.

THE RECUPERATIVE EFFECTS
of The Macallan Single Highland Malt Whisky have seldom been more strikingly touched upon than in a letter recently received.

"AS A WEE LAD, I once accompanied Grandfather, his khillie, and Ben the Labrador, to fish for salmon; but disaster struck and I fell into the Spey's icy swirling waters.

Ben kept in to retrieve me and, near death, I and the exhausted dog were hauled up the bank.

"Quick, Hamish! The Macallan!" cried Grandfather.

A large dram was poured down Ben's throat and, in a trice, he was on his feet licking the colour back to my frozen cheeks.

"A near thing!" gasped Grandfather.

"Aye," replied Hamish, "Ah dinna ken where we'd ha' found another dog like Ben."

A reminiscence donated by Commander Peter Craig, RN (Retd), Curlew, Congolese Exhibition, at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton.

Of course, another interpretation is that the animal nudged the lad into the water, in the interests of getting its reward. But what could a mere hound know of sherry-rack ageing and silken gustatory resonances? At all events, tuck a bottle in your next hamper.

THE MACALLAN. THE MALT.

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thursday May 23 1985 13



Sun, sex, and quails

Saffron Davies throws light on the sex life of the Japanese quail

THERE is an old wives' tale that if we eat lots of carrots we can see better in the dark. This tale has some foundation because carrots contain vitamin A, and this vitamin can be converted into rhodopsin — a photosensitive pigment which is found in the retina of the eye. When light, particularly of the lower wave lengths, enters the eye, it splits the rhodopsin molecule into two parts. The rhodopsin molecule then sets up little electrical signals which are then transmitted to our brains. In this way we are aware of what we are looking at.

Recently the same, or similar, visual pigment has been found deep in the brains of Japanese quails, and it is for this reason that switching on and off the activity of the ovaries or testes of these birds.

There are interesting implications. Many mammals and birds have a limited period of the annual cycle — the so-called seasonal breeders. This ensures that their offspring are produced at a time of the year which is most advantageous to their survival. Short-day breeders are those animals whose breeding season begins when day length shortens in the autumn months, while the reproductive activity of long-day breeders is stimulated as the day length increases during the spring. Thus for one period of the year the gonads of seasonal breeders are busy working away producing eggs or sperm and hormones, while during the non-breeding season the gonads regress; they become small and inactive. But what switches the ovaries or testes on and off?

We know that it has to do with the duration of light and dark phases over a 24 hour period, and that parts of the brain are sensitive to changes in the precise timing of the light/dark cycle. The brain translates these light cues into electrical signals and these, in turn, appropriately stimulate or inhibit the release of specific chemicals (neurohormones) from the part of the brain which regulates the gonads.

Now, in many mammals which are seasonal breeders the pineal gland is important in conveying light/dark signals to the brain. This gland, attached to and lying on top of the brain, releases a substance, melatonin, but this release only occurs during night time. Therefore in the short days of winter, melatonin is secreted for a relatively longer period of time compared with the summer months and in this way the hormone tells the brain the duration of the dark phase of the 24-hour cycle.

In some birds different mechanisms regulate seasonal breeding. The pineal gland does not appear to be important because even after it has been taken away the birds will still show annual reproductive changes. Instead, it is something in the brain itself that responds to changes in the light/dark cycle. But what?

One part of the brain that is sensitive to the light/dark cycle is the hypothalamus, and this structure (lying at the bottom of the brain) also controls the release of the trophic sex hormones — these are the hormones that nudge the gonads to active. Elegant experiments by Brian Follett and his colleagues at the University of Bristol have shown that there are photoreceptors in the hypothalamus itself, which like the receptors in the retina of the eye contain a rhodopsin-like photopigment. (Nature 313:50, 1985) What they did was to attach a fibre optic to the skull of a Japanese quail so that they could illuminate the specific part of the brain known to be light sensitive and responsible for switching breeding on or off. The birds were kept in the dark, but the hypothalamus was selectively illuminated through the fibre optic for 20 hours. The birds are long-day breeders, so they biologically interpreted this long light signal as the onset of spring — consequently release of the gonadotrophic sex hormones was stimulated. The crux of their work was to show that the greatest stimulation of gonadotrophin release was measured when the brain received light at a wave length of about 500 nm (nanometers) — the same wave length at which the rhodopsin in the eyes is most sensitive and absorbs the maximum amount of light.

In all, it looks as if the visual purple or rhodopsin is present in the photoreceptors of the brain as well as in the eye, and presumably these receptors are sensitive to light in the same way as the photoreceptors in the retina. But instead of telling our brains what we are looking at, they ultimately tell the gonads whether they should be switched on or off.

AND NOW, they say, even sleep can damage your health and, possibly, the health of future generations. Human sperm counts have been falling for some time in industrialised countries such as the United States, with some research results suggesting that the average American male today produces less than half of the sperm produced by the average male 50 years ago. One possible cause, according to Dr Ralph Dougherty of Florida State University, is the use of foam mattresses.

When he ran tests on semen donated by students, he found traces of Fyrol FR2, a flame-retardant used to cut down the fire risks associated with foam-filled furniture. Around the world, too, scientists have been reporting unexpectedly high concentrations of such chemicals as polychlorinated biphenyls, better known as PCBs, in semen samples. Such chemicals, widely disseminated in the environment by various industrial activities, are increasingly seen as likely culprits for the parallel downward trend in reported sperm densities — although there are a number of confounding factors.

Sperm density and male fertility can be reduced, for example, by increased sexual activity, by smoking, by drug abuse, and by alcoholism. They are also influenced by temperature: men who live in colder climates tend to show higher sperm counts, as do men who wear loose-fitting underwear.

But, even allowing for these factors, there is strong evidence that the increasing exposure of modern man to a growing number of industrial chemicals is producing measurable falls in sperm counts leading, in some cases, to actual sterility. Twenty-three per cent of the students Dougherty tested proved to be functionally sterile — showing less than twenty million sperm cells in each millilitre of semen. Functional sterility does not imply a total inability to father children, but it can result in considerable difficulties being experienced by would-be fathers.

Indeed, if the peregrine falcon, the bird-headed eagle of the early poisoning of wildlife by synthetic crop protection chemicals, is fair to say that the human sperm is in a perilous position. The symbolic counterpart as far as the chemical disruption of the human reproductive cycle is concerned.

Toxicologists have been growing boom times in recent years, and even a growing list of chemicals has

In the time it took for John Wayne to grow old, the US male became only half the man he was... And a recent transatlantic survey of male students found that almost one in four was functionally sterile. You can blame it, reports John Elkington, on chemicals, ranging from pesticides to foam mattresses

American virility goes west



The Ringo Kid, alias John Wayne, en route for stardom in Stagecoach: no danger then from Kepone

come under suspicion of causing various forms of ill-health or environmental damage. And reproductive toxicology, which focuses on the effects of chemicals on the health of the reproductive system, is now a well-established branch of the health both of the unborn and of surviving children, has been growing faster than most areas of toxicology.

Given the psychological aspects of some reproductive effects, such as menstrual disorders or a loss of sexual libido, it may be acutely difficult to interpret them with any degree of certainty. But other aspects of the human reproductive cycle, such as sperm counts, numbers of live and still births, birth weights, and infant survival and birth defect rates, can be reliable indicators of a chemical's potential for disrupting reproduction.

However, a basic problem facing those who would use human sperm as an indicator of environmental pollution, in the same way that earlier researchers used the health of predatory birds, is that we now know more about the ecology of such birds than we do about the ecology of the sperm.

One reason for this relative ignorance is that the falcon or the eagle is visible to the naked eye and is closely watched throughout its life-cycle by hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of keen bird-watchers and scientific ornithologists. Soaring on thermals or swooping after their prey, these birds capture the imagination and have become powerful romantic symbols. Human sperm, by contrast, are invisible to the naked eye and are far from

being a subject for polite conversation. Another reason why environmentalists have so far tended to focus on birds rather than sperm is that the reproductive failure of the feathered victims of such chemical compounds as DDT became, ultimately, indisputable. It was no longer simply a question of ornithologists' swirling learned papers on the relative thickness of eggshells: anyone who cared to take a walk in the countryside was likely to trip over the evidence, in the form of dead birds, dead foxes, and the other biological fallout which followed in the wake of the new synthetic pesticides.

With human sperm, on the other hand, the question of whether sperm counts have actually been falling significantly is still the subject of a sometimes bitter controversy.

A landmark study of sperm counts and sperm quality was carried out in 1951 by Professor John MacLeod of Cornell University Medical College. His results, based on 2,000 fertile and infertile males, were widely accepted and have been used as a reference standard in later studies.

MacLeod himself said in 1979 that his results over the previous three decades showed no clear trend, but younger scientists disagree. They claim that there was a significant decline in sperm counts from those reported in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s to those reported in the 1960s and 1970s. They also urge that more attention be paid to sperm quality.

One possible technique for assessing male fertility, and one which has been extensively used in testing the sons of mothers treated with the

controversial synthetic oestrogen DES is the "sperm penetration assay." Developed by researchers at the University of Hawaii, this uses denuded hamster eggs as targets for human sperm, to test the sperm's fertilising capacity. Those using the assay stress that you do not end up with a human-hamster hybrid, or "humster." But the sperm of infertile men, it turns out, rarely penetrate the denuded hamster egg.

Two chemical compounds which have been found to have a profound impact on the fertility of men exposed to them are dibromochloropropane (DBCP), used as a soil fumigant, and chlordane (better known as Kepone), the pesticide which, for a time, ranked as the most publicised toxin — coding places only to that toxin of toxins, dioxin. Even one part per million of

Kepone has been found to have a marked effect on the reproduction of such test species as pheasants: 25 parts per million put an almost total brake on pheasant reproduction, while at 50 ppm male pheasants developed female phallages and showed misshapen sperm. After the worst Kepone disaster yet, which resulted in the forced closure of a company called Life Science Products and in the closure of an entire river and estuary to fishing, the investigators found low sperm counts and an unusual proportion of abnormal sperm among workers at the plant whose mismanagement had resulted in widespread Kepone contamination.

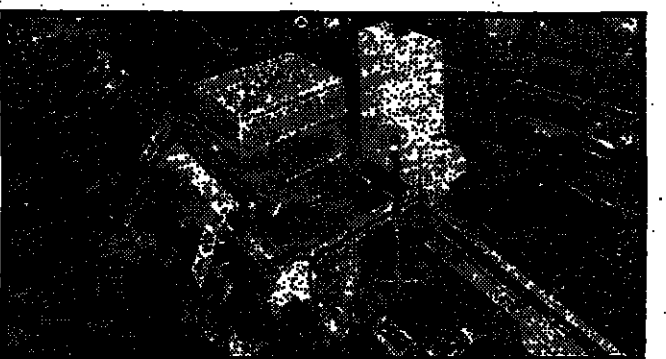
The real problem is that there are still so many unanswered questions in this field. Evidence from animal tests strongly suggests that the offspring of males exposed to such chemicals as methadone or morphine are much more likely to die before they are weaned. Or, to take two more widely used chemicals, there is also evidence that both the consumption of caffeine and smoking by fathers can have a significant effect on the health and survival of any children they may father.

But how are these effects caused? Are they the result of damage to the sperm itself, perhaps expressed as reduced ribosomal activity? Do the chemicals, as morphine appears to do, have a chemical make-up of semen, impeding the movement of sperm? Or is there an even more ominous possibility?

Experiments with rabbits have shown that if you feed male animals with thalidomide, the drug and its breakdown products appear in the semen itself. Thalidomide has been found in the sperm of more patients at one American clinic, while similar effects have been reported in patients undergoing anticonvulsant therapy, and in heroin users.

Cases which have been reported of women developing an altered reaction to their partners' sperm also suggest that semen itself in some instances, and in others possibly contaminants in the semen, may be altering the chemistry of the womb in ways which may be detrimental to the developing embryo. The sperm may yet prove to be the Trojan Horse of reproductive toxicology.

John Elkington is the author of *The Poisoned Womb: Human Reproduction in a Polluted World*, published next week by Viking, price £10.95.



Left: Part of the SNS proton accelerator ring. Right: Target area and experimental hall

Neutrons are shining in Oxfordshire. Anthony Tucker finds scientists with a £50 million reason to be cheerful

Britain's world-beating bit part splat machine

WHEN it comes to the fabric of support or the general morale of British civilisation, there is little to cheer about. It is in a Government-imposed spiral dive that is now so serious that recovery may not be possible this century. Yet, as if to demonstrate the time-scale of momentum within the national scientific engine, there were cheers recently at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory (RAL) at the first-time triumphant run of an incredibly complex machine that is a product of impetus, determination and ingenuity and which — for the time being — puts Britain in the forefront of a sector of research that, in the material sciences, could be crucially important.

The machine is the £50 million Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), a massive research tool that — from the other side of the Atlantic — is seen as "a heart of a machine that's going to blow us right out of the water."

Scientists, these days, tend to adopt military analogies to please the hands that feed them. But however much of the spirit of competition is stirred overseas the SNS — which makes some use of bits of high energy machines and hence costs only about half as much as would a new machine of its capabilities —

promises to be a world leader for at least a decade. It will use very intense pulses of neutrons to investigate the structure of materials at the atomic level.

Spallation, incidentally, is the nuclear physicist's expression for a special kind of splat — the fragmentation that occurs when something travelling very fast hits an immovable object. Neutrons, as everybody knows, are the sub-atomic particles which, in the right circumstances, produce fission reactions and which, apart from keeping nuclear reactors ticking over, represent a substantial proportion of the high energy radiation pulse which makes the effects of nuclear weapons such gloomy reading. A spallation neutron source is a giant machine in which high energy protons go splat — bang into a uranium target and, without involving either the slow-fission or the fusion process, produce a shower of nuclear fragments dominated by neutrons.

In the machine pulses of protons will produce pulses of neutrons whose characteristics can be shaped — in terms of energy spectrum, pulse width and frequency — to suit specific experiments which will be clustered around the uranium target.

It needs to be stressed that neutron scattering is a technique which has been used since the days of the first low-power nuclear research reactors from whose cores beams of slow neutrons were extracted for studies of crystal structure and other properties of materials.

Over the years the technique has become increasingly important in solid-state physics, in research into new polymers and plastic structures, in chemistry and in the investigation of biological structures — such as those of viruses or plasmids. The great advantage of neutrons is that they are electrically neutral which means that they interact only weakly with the materials they encounter. That is precisely why they are very penetrating and it is also why they can be used very easily for the investigation of the deep structure of materials. The fact that they are sensitive to different isotopes and to the presence of magnetism in condensed materials can also be applied to the measurement of deep temperatures in large objects (such as turbines or any other kind of heat engine) gives them an extraordinary range of practical and research uses.

As in other processes involving either the direct or indirect illumination of structure, the key to clear vision is basically the brightness of the light — which in this context

means the flux of neutrons at a specific region of the energy spectrum. Nuclear reactors of ever greater flux intensity provided the first bright neutron sources and currently Britain is a partner (if rather late joiner) of the Institute for Materials and Chemical Process (IMCP) at Grenoble where a special reactor produces the highest continuous flux of neutrons on earth. Although ideally suited for some types of research, this neutron flux is far less than the brightness of the peaks of the SNS neutron light, especially at high energies.

One obvious advantage of investigating materials by means of very short pulses is that structural movement — such as relaxation or defect growth — can be watched as it occurs, and there are powerful arguments for using one technique or the other for a specific purpose. But the fact is that both continuous neutron sources and pulsed sources have their specific virtues and that, if the SNS goes through its progression to full energy without hitches, then Britain and any experimental collaborators she can gather on contract will have the use of the most powerful pulsed source on earth.

Interestingly, the Russians are trotting along behind on a different and incredibly difficult route, trying to utilise a continuous high energy flux nuclear reactor as a pulsed source. This can be done, in a heavyweight kind of way, by having an enormous moving reflector which causes the reactor to work in a pulsed way. The engineering is difficult, and although the source may compare in brightness with that attainable by the use of a proton accelerator, the pulses are much longer, which makes them far less useful for research. All of this, to which must be added enormously greater cost, leaves everyone except the Russians wondering why on earth they went that route.

The RAL scientists make no comment on the Russian machine. They are, however, acutely aware of the fact that while IMCP at Grenoble has over 30 experiments clustered around the machine, the SNS has only five at the moment, of which one is Indian.

On present criteria there will be little British money for large experiments in the years ahead and, both implicitly and explicitly, RAL is ready to weigh all external proposals for WNS research on a scientific contract basis. In two years, if the SNS is up to its designed performance, there will quite probably be US proposals for experiments. It would be an

interesting side-lobe of materials physics if a Russian neutron spallation experiment were to sit side by side with those of Europe and the US in a laboratory very close to the cruise-missile denied hills of Berkshire.

David Gray, SNS project director, as delighted as he is with the fact that the machine worked first time, on schedule and within budget, looks at the future with less certainty than might be expected after a major technical triumph that confounded critics of his project's progress. The worry is that, because of financial constraints, the machine has been constructed and tested in segments in isolation, not as a continually growing and unified structure. Neither he nor anyone else knows what bugs are lurking inside and, with a machine that must keep 99 per cent of its proton beam on target if it is to avoid unacceptable radiation levels for normal maintenance, fingers are likely to be firmly crossed as its intensity is steadily raised over the months ahead.

"It is almost certain that we will have breakdowns of one kind or another simply as a result of the way we have had to work. It is an inevitable penalty of financial constraints whose effects nobody can even begin to estimate at this stage."



interesting side-lobe of materials physics if a Russian neutron spallation experiment were to sit side by side with those of Europe and the US in a laboratory very close to the cruise-missile denied hills of Berkshire.

David Gray, SNS project director, as delighted as he is with the fact that the machine worked first time, on schedule and within budget, looks at the future with less certainty than might be expected after a major technical triumph that confounded critics of his project's progress. The worry is that, because of financial constraints, the machine has been constructed and tested in segments in isolation, not as a continually growing and unified structure. Neither he nor anyone else knows what bugs are lurking inside and, with a machine that must keep 99 per cent of its proton beam on target if it is to avoid unacceptable radiation levels for normal maintenance, fingers are likely to be firmly crossed as its intensity is steadily raised over the months ahead.

"It is almost certain that we will have breakdowns of one kind or another simply as a result of the way we have had to work. It is an inevitable penalty of financial constraints whose effects nobody can even begin to estimate at this stage."

There are many scientists who will see RAL's new "middle cost" machine as a giant enemy. This is a symptom of the sickness of our times, and is a sickness alien to science itself. When there is success it deserves its cheers and its proper rewards, even on a starvation diet.

The flying pancake heads for earth

Robert Walgate looks forward to a close encounter with a spinning comet that might be about to disappear for ever

HALLEY'S comet will be encountered by a delegation of spacecraft from Europe, the USSR and Japan next March — but it won't be the first comet to have received visitors. That honour is reserved for the erratic, very short-period comet Giacobini-Zinner, which has returned every six years or so since it was discovered in 1900. Giacobini-Zinner will meet ICE, a re-named solar explorer satellite launched with quite another mission in 1978, on

September 11 this year at a closing speed of 27 km per second. And, according to astronomer Zdenek Sekanina of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, the encounter will be particularly interesting because Giacobini-Zinner is markedly different from the more sedate Halley.

Sekanina has calculated from orbit measurements that the nucleus of Giacobini-Zinner is spinning so fast (once every 80 minutes) that it is flattened into a giant pancake some 2.5 km across and just 300 metres thick. This means the cometary material — probably compacted dust, ice and frozen gases — must be so stressed by centrifugal forces that it is on the point of breaking up.

Every October, in fact, the Earth passes through the path of Giacobini-Zinner, and observers see the "Draconid" meteor shower, which is the result of fragments of the comet entering the Earth's

atmosphere. Every comet possesses such streams (Halley has the Eta Aquarids, through which the Earth passed last weekend), but Giacobini-Zinner's meteors appear to be particularly soft, burning up rather smudgily and high in the atmosphere, as if they were more snowball than rock. If this represents the substance of Giacobini-Zinner, it certainly must be unstable if it is spinning so fast. And comets sometimes do fragment in spectacular ways, so the 1985 appearance of Giacobini-Zinner "will provide an excellent opportunity to watch for any signs of nucleus breakup," Sekanina says.

Sekanina reached these conclusions after making a series of painstaking models of the fluctuating orbit of Giacobini-Zinner since 1900. All cometary orbits are affected by forces produced as gas and dust streams from them as the comets approach

the Sun — reacting rather like a jet plane to its exhaust — but Giacobini-Zinner seems to have been affected more than most. Moreover, these non-gravitational forces on Giacobini-Zinner were much greater in some of the 10 observed approaches of the comet than in others, which led Sekanina to hypothesise that the comet nucleus was asymmetrical, and on some approaches presented a large face to the Sun (causing most outgassing and the largest forces), and on others only a thin one.

This would be understandable, he argued, if the nucleus was spinning like a top, when the "tidal" forces on the cometary material as the comet approached the Sun would cause the top to slowly "precess" (its axis of rotation would change). Fitting all the observed data on brightness and orbit since 1900 led to the pancake model.

Spacecraft ICE, however,

not being designed for a comet mission (it used to measure the solar wind, until using its hydrazine manoeuvring thrusters it was flung round the Moon and on out to the comet), will not be able to take pictures of the nucleus (unlike the missions past Halley, ICE which used to be called ISEE-3) will measure ion compositions in Giacobini-Zinner's tail, and Sekanina's theory will depend much on observations from Earth.

On its next pass around the Sun (the comet comes closest to the Sun on September 5, when it will be just half the Earth-Sun distance from the Earth), Giacobini-Zinner's axis of rotation will twist another 40 degrees, Sekanina estimates, and the forces just could be enough to break the comet up, when it would make a spectacular multiple appearance in the sky.

Ref: *The Astronomical J.*, vol. 90, p 837 (1985).

ADVANCED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

leading to a

MSc in MANAGEMENT

through

ACTION LEARNING

(Part-Time)

This is a management development programme for a limited number of senior managers.

It is concerned with achieving results — Taking Action — learning through new and strenuous practical experiences.

This programme is the most well established and widely recognised "Action Learning" style action learning programme leading to a Master's Degree.

The programme demands a commitment from the student AND his organisation and is concerned with being given the responsibility to cause change and improvement in the organisation at strategic level.

There are two phases to the programme:

- Action Learning through solving a strategic problem in the organisation on the first year;
- Research in the organisation in the second year.

Entrance requirements are flexible, eg senior level experience may compensate for lack of formal higher educational qualifications. Minimum age of 30 years.

Enquiries to: Derek Mott, Department of Management Studies, Duncan House, High Street, London E15 2J5, Tel 01-500 7722 ext 3319 or The Assistant Registrar, North East London Polytechnic, West Ham Precinct, Romford Road, London E14 4LZ, Tel 01-500 7722.

NELP North East London Polytechnic

Printed in UK 21134118

YOUNG ELECTRONICS & SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Combine your High Tech Career..

You are an ambitious young professional of graduate level. You already have some useful experience under your belt in one or more of the following:

• **HARDWARE** • **SOFTWARE** • **SYSTEMS**

You want to rediscover the professional excitement and real opportunities for job satisfaction your present job lacks. Computing Devices has the answer.

First there's the technology. We are world leaders in the application of microprocessors to advanced airborne stores management systems, and we are under contract to deliver the world's first real-time reconnaissance system which signals the only really major advance in this field in the past 70 years. So it won't surprise you to know that we have a full order book and a great future.

Then there's the 1066 Country itself. Places not to be missed read like a role of honour... By the time you've seen Battle Abbey, The Royal Pavilion, famous castles

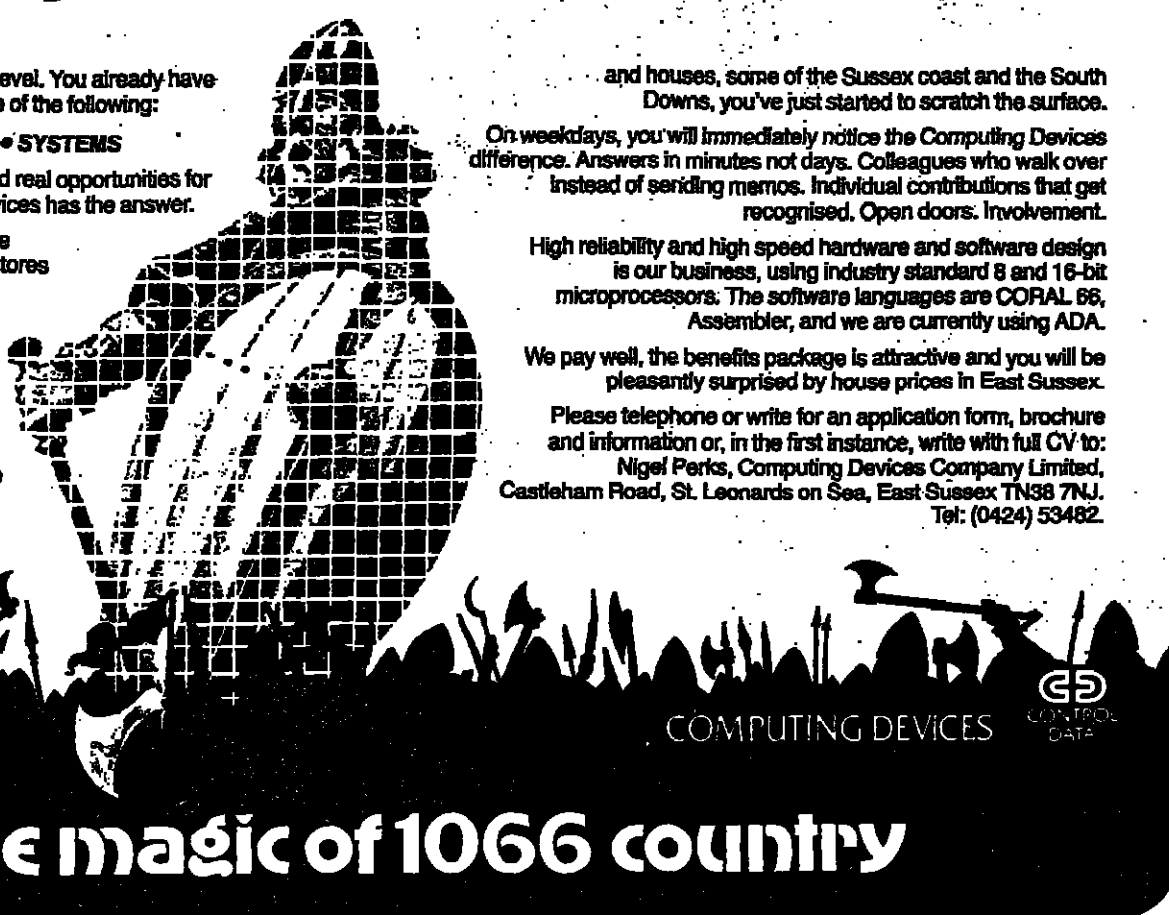
and houses, some of the Sussex coast and the South Downs, you've just started to scratch the surface.

On weekdays, you will immediately notice the Computing Devices difference. Answers in minutes not days. Colleagues who walk over instead of sending memos. Individual contributions that get recognised. Open doors. Involvement.

High reliability and high speed hardware and software design is our business, using industry standard 8 and 16-bit microprocessors. The software languages are CORAL 66, Assembler, and we are currently using ADA.

We pay well, the benefits package is attractive and you will be pleasantly surprised by house prices in East Sussex.

Please telephone or write for an application form, brochure and information or, in the first instance, write with full CV to: Nigel Perks, Computing Devices Company Limited, Castleham Road, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 7NJ. Tel: (0424) 53482.



...With the magic of 1066 country

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES IN RETAIL MANAGEMENT.

DO IT ALL SUPERSTORES first appeared in 1979. There are already 54 Stores spread throughout England and Wales and a continued expansion programme is planned for the future.

As part of the tremendously successful WH Smith Group we set particularly high standards in our corporate presentation, merchandise range, marketing strategy, administration systems and most importantly the calibre of our Management.

As part of our planned development we are seeking Graduates, preferably in Business Studies but any discipline considered including HND or similar qualification, to join the Company to train for a career in D.I.Y. Superstore Management. Applicants must be prepared to undertake a training and development programme in any of our locations and possess the motivation and determination to work in a highly demanding environment which involves late night, and Bank Holiday trading. Some previous experience of retail work gained through Saturday or vacation employment will be an advantage.

We offer a competitive salary and outstanding benefits package but more importantly a chance to join a retail company specialising in D.I.Y., one of the fastest growth sectors of the market.

If you have the ambition and the ability to learn DO IT ALL, do it, please write with CV to Mr. R. Macdonald, Personnel Co-ordinator, WH Smith Do It All Limited, Falcon House, The Millers, Dudley, West Midlands. DY2 5PG.

WHSMITH

DO IT ALL

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The post of AGRICULTURAL MANAGER has become available, at the Maziad Experimental Agricultural Centre, for a person with the following qualifications:

Either - A PhD in plant protection (insecticides, plant diseases) with wide experience in field work and green houses, and with a minimum of 14 years experience.

OR - An MA in the above mentioned subjects, with not less than 18 years experience.

OR - A BA in the above mentioned subjects, with not less than 24 years experience.

Basic salary: 6,500-7,000 Dirhams per month

All applications with full CV must be accompanied with photocopies of the said certificates, and photocopies of applicants' passports.

The closing date for applications is the 2nd June, 1985.

Applications should be sent to: The Assistant Under Secretary, Maziad Experimental Agricultural Centre (1/1) c/o The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Information Department, 30 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computing and Information Technology Research Centre Directorship

The University of Queensland has recently established a Centre to promote collaborative research with industry, Commerce, Government and Education in the vital areas of Computing and Information Technology. The Centre will be the first in this field within an Australian university; it has initial funding in excess of \$0.5M and the goal is that it should become self-supporting in three years. The Centre will have considerable autonomy in research areas, recruitment, funding strategies and the exploitation of results.

The Directorship is the key position; it affords an excellent opportunity for leadership and foresight in widely-based, longer-term research of international standard, using or developing productive new technologies.

Applicants should have an established reputation in Computer Science or a closely-related field, significant research achievements substantiated by publication, and proven skills in technical project management.

The appointment is initially for three years with negotiable salary and benefits expected to be not less than those of a full professional position. Closing date: 15th July, or until an appointment is made.

Further information from: The Head, Department of Computer Science, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, QLD 4067 AUSTRALIA. Phone: International 617 377 3552 or National 07 377 3552. Telex: UNIVQLD 444015.

Applications detailing full particulars to the Staff Officer, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, 4067, Queensland, Australia. Please quote ref. 22165.

The University of Queensland is an Equal Opportunity Employer (12750).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPOINTMENTS
APPEAR EVERY THURSDAY IN THE GUARDIAN

Developing computer user information for international markets

a challenge in documentation and user interface design

Digital is the world's no. 1 minicomputer manufacturer and the second largest computer company overall. To be successful on an international scale requires a close appreciation of local needs and markets - from user interface and documentation to product packaging design.

The International Product Group, based in Reading, ensures the suitability of Digital products for the international market, and works closely with development teams in the US to ensure products are designed with ease of adaptation for such markets in mind.

Steadily increasing demand for our products means we are expanding rapidly and, as a result, are looking for the following key professionals to join our team:

Senior Technical Writer/Editor

To £17,000 pa

Leading a small team of Writers/Editors, you will be responsible for producing international user documentation for a range of small systems. You will work closely with US Development Teams and European Translation Teams. Probably qualified to degree level or equivalent we would expect you to have at least 5 years' writing/editing experience within the computer industry. Good organisational and interpersonal skills are essential and a knowledge of producing documentation for translation would be a distinct advantage.

Technical Writer/Editor

To £14,000 pa

To write and adapt user documentation and screen text for international products, we would expect you to have a degree or equivalent plus at least 3 years' experience in writing/editing for the computer industry. We'll be looking for previous experience of producing user documentation - both manuals and on-line help systems - and a knowledge of printing and publishing processes. Experience of producing documentation for translation would be an advantage.

Senior Human Factors Engineer

To £17,000 pa

You'll lead a small Project Team collecting data and reporting on international users and their information requirements. You will carry out user interface and documentation evaluations for a wide range of products, user surveys and studies of the translation/adaptation process. You will then use the data to assist US Development Groups in product design and to develop training materials on adaptation of user information for European markets.

Qualified to degree level or equivalent in computer science, linguistics, ergonomics/applied psychology or other relevant discipline, we would expect you to have 5 years' + experience of user research in the computer industry, together with excellent organisational and interpersonal skills. Knowledge of on-line help and documentation systems would be an advantage.

For all positions, knowledge of a foreign language would be helpful, and for the Senior positions, flexibility to travel abroad on a regular basis will be required.

In addition to excellent salaries, you can expect the full benefits package that you would associate with our world-leading position, including generous assistance with relocation where appropriate. With our continued growth, career prospects are excellent both in the UK and internationally.

In the first instance, please write with full CV to our consultant P. Johnson at Moxon Dolphin & Kirby Limited, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5TE, quoting ref: LLY. Alternatively telephone him on 01-631 4411.

digital

Digital Equipment Company (DEC).

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY

A combination of the elusive, the complex and the non-obvious, Systems Engineering demands a flexible approach.

We at Hunting Engineering have created an environment that has proved conducive to innovative thought. Our Advanced Technology Group comprises multi-disciplined teams of engineers and scientists, who rather than being compartmentalised within their discipline are able to broaden their expertise developing our capability as they develop themselves.

AERODYNAMICISTS

To develop and apply leading-edge techniques to a range of project studies. Specific areas of interest include: weapon aerodynamic prediction methods, trajectory modelling, aircraft-weapon carriage and separation, wind tunnel analyses and mathematical modelling. Opportunities exist at both junior and senior levels.

HYDROCODE MODELLERS

These positions are ideally suited to Applied Mathematicians and Mathematical Physicists who will carry out a range of studies of the deformation of structures when subjected to very high energies.

GUIDANCE AND CONTROL (PROPULSION)

Your knowledge and experience will be in the areas of solid rocket motors, air-breathing engines and underwater propulsion systems. Activities will include design, together with analyses of performance using semi-empirical and computer prediction techniques. A working knowledge of a scientific programming language (ideally Fortran) would be a distinct advantage.

An attractive and competitive salary package is backed by assistance with relocation to this beautiful semi-rural location.

Telephone or write to me Geoff Brady, Recruitment Manager, Hunting Engineering Limited, Reddings Wood, Amphil, Beds. (0525) 403431.

make a career with
HUNTING ENGINEERING

Environmental Health Adviser

£16,650 - £20,140

The Post Office wishes to appoint an experienced Occupational Hygienist to fill this newly created post. The jobholder will assist the Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the determination of Post Office Environmental Health Policy; in collaboration and consultation with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, advise management at all levels on the recognition, evaluation and control of environmental factors associated with work or the workplace which may cause ill-health or discomfort amongst Post Office employees or members of the public on Post Office premises; and co-ordinate environmental health activities throughout the Post Office within the objectives of the Occupational Health Service.

The appointed person will be expected to have at least 5 years experience of Occupational Hygiene practice after obtaining a higher qualification in Occupational Hygiene. The successful applicant is therefore likely to have a first qualification in Engineering, Chemistry or the like, and to have attended a specialist course leading to an MSc in Occupational Hygiene.

The jobholder will be based at Post Office Headquarters in London, although travel throughout the United Kingdom will be necessary for which appropriate expenses will be paid. The salary scale will be £16,650 to £20,140.

(Further details may be obtained from Dr M A H Webb MRCS, LRCP, DPH, MFCM, Deputy Chief Medical Officer - phone 01-245 7257).

Starting salary will be within the range quoted. Benefits include contributory pension scheme, and a generous leave allowance.

Application forms can be obtained from Mr B Langford (quoting ref. NS) PHQ/MR1.2 R536, 33 Grosvenor Place, LONDON SW1X 1PX. Tel: 01-245 7083. The closing date for applications is 7 June 1985.

The Post Office is an equal opportunities employer.

The Post Office

Our business is your future

Opportunities for Experienced Statisticians

Statisticians in the Government Statistical Service are concerned with the application of statistics in various fields such as economics, sociology, and computing science. The work requires a broad understanding of the nature of administrative problems, skill in communication, as well as technical ability in the selection, preparation, and interpretation of relevant statistics.

There are at least six vacancies for main-grade Statisticians. The posts are mainly in London, but there may be one or two elsewhere.

Candidates should normally have a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours involving formal training or work in statistics, eg a degree in statistics, or mathematics, economics, or computing science, or an equivalent qualification; or a higher degree, or a postgraduate university certificate or diploma, involving formal training or work in statistics or computing science; or a pass in the Final examinations of the Institute of Statisticians. Exceptionally, candidates without one of these qualifications may be considered if they can show evidence of valuable relevant experience and a command of advanced statistical techniques. All candidates must have at least 5 years' professional experience in statistical work, computing, or operational research (eg in industry, commerce, the public sector, or higher education).

Salary (inner London) (under review) £14,195-£18,785. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 19 June 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/619/1.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

Remuneration Analyst

c. £11,000

Bristol

Clerical Medical achieved excellent results last year to maintain its position as a leading life office with a reputation for investment expertise, skilled management and financial strength.

Our plans for continued growth will involve the personnel management team in the further development of our staffing policies. To strengthen the team we need a remuneration specialist to carry out survey work, detailed job analysis, prepare job descriptions and help to influence remuneration planning across all levels.

The successful candidate will have several years experience in this field and a sound knowledge of HAY-MSL evaluation and methodology. Practical involvement in computer applications would be an additional asset.

This is an ideal opportunity for a young graduate, preferably with line personnel experience, to make a major career move into the financial sector, where personal development prospects are good and the rewards competitive. Candidates in their mid 20's to early 30's are therefore likely to be best suited.

An excellent benefits package includes non-contributory life and pension scheme and after a qualifying period, staff house purchase loan scheme.

Please write with CV to: Miss M Ashford, Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society, Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH.

Clerical Medical
Life Assurance

City of London based computer company seeks SALES TRAINEES

If you are at least 22 years old, ambitious, preferably with a degree and can communicate well, then please phone for further details on 01-668 0086

SOLICITOR

Required for general practice. Newly qualified applicant considered. Salary by negotiation. Partnership prospects.

Apply Messrs J. & J. Sharpley, Solicitors, 48/50 Preston New Road, Blackburn.

GRADUATE COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Rapidly expanding Company offering engineering & computer services consultancy in the field of off-shore certification requires young graduate.

Applicants aged 23/30 must be able to work in a small team and have good communications skills. Familiarity with applications software and database techniques desired, preferably in a petro-chemical environment. Responsibility will be for day-to-day computer operations & security, maintenance of micro/minor software, and servicing remote users through communications links.

The company offers very good career prospects with possibilities for international travel.

Salary negotiable & commensurate with experience. Applications to E. J. Weston & Company Limited, 108 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PP

To book your advertisement telephone 01-278 2332 or 061-832 7200, ext. 2161 (Manchester)

TODAY the IBM Personal Computer dominates the market; tomorrow it will be dead. That's the view of professional IBM-watchers, who make their crust out of predicting what the tight-lipped giant will do next.

We are all waiting for IBM to launch its replacement, the PCII. This upgraded IBM PC will have an 80286 chip, an improved operating system, and possibly 3.5in disc drives. The Intel 80286 is much more powerful than the Intel 8088 used in the original PC. It is also, not coincidentally, the chip used in the wonderful "Advanced Technology" PC AT that IBM launched last year.

IBM-watchers have set several deadlines for the PCII's launch. December, February, April 30. So far, "Big Blue" has not designed to meet any of them. However, there are reasons for thinking IBM will act soon.

First, the IBM PC is out of date. It was launched in August 1981, as a 16K cassette-based micro, with all the peripheral controllers on separate cards plugged into expansion slots on the main-board or "motherboard." This made sense because it provided a supremely flexible system. Nowadays, things like floppy disc and screen controllers, printer drivers and a serial port are not optional extras. A serious computer system that didn't have them would be unmarketable.

It no longer makes sense to have them all on separate cards, because if you put them on the motherboard you get a smaller, neater, cheaper and more reliable machine.

Rival manufacturers are doing this. How far can IBM afford to lag behind?

Second, the 8/16 bit Intel 8088 is less powerful than the 16/32-bit chips now available. Today the IBM PC is slow compared with rivals like the Olivetti M-24 and Compaq Deskpro. In fact it is only about as fast as cheap home micros like the Amstrad and Acorn BBC B.

Worse still, there are machines on the way — the Atari 520ST, for example — that wipe the floor with the IBM PC but are only a third of the price. Many companies are willing to pay a premium for the IBM name and quality, but few want to pay a Jaguar price for Morris Minor 1000 performance.

IBM is well aware that the PC is reaching the end of its useful life. That's why it



The IBM PC AT: a way into the future? Picture by Frank Martin

IBM has yet to launch its latest personal computer. It may not arrive in time, writes Jack Schofield

The wait for the giant's latest offspring

launched the PC AT. The powerful 80286 chip used in that "has two advantages. First, it can pretend to be an 8088 chip, and thus run existing IBM PC DOS software, only faster. Second, the 80286 has extra facilities that could be exploited by a new or improved operating system. Thus the new chip retains the best of the past, improves on it and offers a way into the future. What could be better than that?"

The problem is that, with the PC AT, IBM has also tipped its hand to rivals, who are now throwing themselves

into this new market right behind IBM. The number of IBM PC-emulators is already falling, as these disappear from the market — of the majors, only Commodore is trying to jump on the bandwagon just as it grinds to a halt — while new AT-clones are being introduced every week.

Firms just announcing 80286-based micros include Compaq (with both portable and desktop models), Zenith, Intertec, Kaypro, TIT, Tele-video, Corona and Texas Instruments. Intertec is already delivering produc-

tion models. Mitsubishi, Tandy, ACT and several other companies are not far behind.

The key to producing an AT-clone lies in making a ROM (read-only memory) chip to control the BIOS or basic input/output system. The AT's ROM cannot be copied, because the code is copyrighted by IBM. However, it is possible to design a different ROM to do the same job.

If this seems like hard work, you can buy a suitable ROM from Phoenix Software of Norwood, Massachusetts. Phoenix has copy-infringe-

ment insurance on its ROM, and can also supply stock designs for all the other bits of the AT-alike you might want to make.

If even that sounds too much, Nara Technologies of Santa Clara will sell you an AT-clone motherboard, so all you have to worry about is putting it in a box with disc drives etc. Incidentally, the Nara board has only 38 chips on it, where the IBM PC AT has more than 100. That's why the Nara board costs only \$400 — an AT for the price of an Acorn BBC B!

You can see why people are

wondering why IBM is holding back on the PCII.

One theory: IBM is waiting for an improved operating system, PC DOS version 4. The current version 3, supplied by Microsoft, has limitations. It can't talk directly to more than 640K memory, which is far less than the 80286 can use. Also it doesn't offer window management or multi-tasking. These are needed for a wimp (windows, icons, mouse) program to interface to Rival Apple's Macintosh and Digital Research's GEM. Alas, Microsoft has been demonstrating MS Win-

dows for almost 18 months, but has failed to deliver a finished product.

Another theory: IBM is going to change to 3.5in disc drives like Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Data General, ACT, Atari and other leading firms. The 3.5in discs are smaller and much more convenient than 5.25in ones, yet commonly store twice as much data — 720K, compared with the IBM PC's current 360K.

The 3.5in drives would be particularly desirable if IBM wants to market its long-rumoured "lap top" portable.

to rival The One from Data General. The disadvantages are that it will take time to transfer the huge mass of existing IBM software to the new format, and dealers will have to stock two of everything.

The operating system idea is more plausible. IBM has previously launched an improved operating system with each machine. DOS 1 came with the original PC in 1981. DOS 2 came with the hard-disc XT in 1983, and DOS 3 with the PC AT at the end of 1984. Perhaps DOS 4 is due at the end of this year. It seems unlikely that Microsoft will finish it much before then, but even less likely that IBM can hold back the PCII for that long.

Such thinking fuels speculation that IBM is working on its own operating system, called (unofficially) Big DOS. This will be able to use more than a megabyte of RAM, and exploit the 80286 chip's multi-tasking and memory management routines to run several programs at once. These facilities are not expected to be part of MS DOS until version 5 arrives in 1988.

Indeed, IBM has just launched its own multi-tasking window manager, TopView, but this has limited capabilities (no bit-mapped graphics). Anyway, if Microsoft can't make windows and multi-tasking work properly before 1986, it is even less likely that IBM can. Microsoft has a good track record in writing micro-computer software. IBM doesn't.

Where does this leave the would-be purchaser of a business microcomputer?

At the moment, the smart money is going mainly to Olivetti and Compaq: their 8086-based machines outperform the IBM equivalents, and they are better value.

In the future, users will be divided between user-friendly 68000-based micros (Apple, Macintosh, Atari 520ST) and 80286-based "power user" models like the PC AT.

Already IBM seems to have difficulty meeting the huge demand for its PC AT, so if rivals get their AT-alikes out fast — as now looks increasingly likely — they could take a significant share of this market. IBM might just find it has jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

MicroMaths: Keith Devlin looks behind the keyboard to the logic and then solves a few puzzles

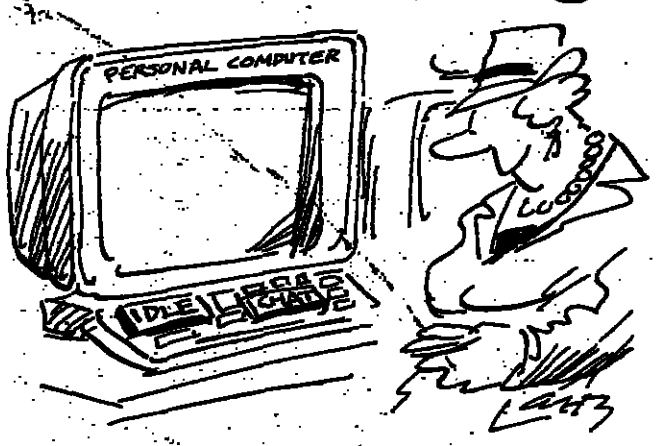
Print-outs and the negative computer

PART of this week's column is concerned with providing an update on problems in previous weeks (including an admission of some errors of judgment on my part), but I'll start off with some maths / computing books. Since "standard micro books" are frequently reviewed elsewhere on this page, I'll concentrate on the more esoteric stuff.

If you would like a reasonably simple introduction to logic design of computer circuits, try the book *From Logic to Computers* by P. J. Thewlis and R. N. T. Foxon (Blackwell), a 133 page paperback. This takes you from the basic ideas of mathematical logic and set theory through the construction of arithmetic units, the representation of data in computer memory, interfacing on to the construction of 8-bit microprocessors and the Motorola M6800 series microprocessors in particular.

It is a book which needs to be read steadily rather than skipped through, but if you get through it 123 pages you will have a reasonably good understanding as to what is going on underneath that keyboard. The emphasis is on the logical design rather than the electronics, so all you need is a little brain and a little patience.

Also from Blackwell is *A First Course in Formal Language Theory* by V. J. Rayward-Smith. If you want to know something about the design and operation of high level programming languages such as Basic or Pascal, this book might answer your needs. The subject is not easy and



Rayward-Smith's 120-page treatment will probably prove hard going. It is written for first and second year computer science students, but should be accessible to anyone who is familiar with abstract mathematics such as abstract algebra, and who is used to following formal proofs. Of theorems. Given these prerequisites, you should find this an excellent concise treatment of a difficult subject.

Totally unconnected with computers but a magnificent little book to stimulate older schoolchildren (and therefore a must for school libraries) is *Images of Infinity*, produced and published by the Lancelotti Group, and obtainable from Tarquin Publications (whose praises in the artistic mathematics field I have sung on more than one occasion in this column). It is packed with pictures, paradoxes, and

properties of infinity, and surely cannot fail to arouse interest. Tarquin brings to mind Iyotia, Plastica, Oddy, Leicester, and ALB, another of the few firms who produce a range of "toys" (should I call them) with a mathematical basis; mainly designed for primary school children, though their polyshapes could appeal to all ages.

Anyone faced with having to give talks or lectures on mathematics, or any other scientific theme, might do well to get hold of Peter Kenny's *A Handbook of Public Speaking for Scientists and Engineers* (Adam Hilger Ltd, Bristol).

Now for the update on some previous columns. On April 11, I asked what number I was assigned in a race where the sum of the numbers less than mine was the same as the sum of the numbers greater, the

field being between 100 and 1,000, with numbers assigned consecutively starting from 1. My number was 204, with a total field of 288 runners, a result many readers found, and one which requires only elementary school algebra.

The piece on sums of squares, cubes, etc. on April 26 generated a larger postbag than usual. I mentioned Ramanujan's observation that the number 1729 is the smallest which can be expressed as a sum of two cubes in two different ways. These are:

$$1729 = 12^3 + 1^3 = 10^3 + 9^3$$

I was foolish enough to suggest that you would probably need a micro to check that the number 1729 is the least such, and in fact many of you did this using a micro. But as Denis Ward of Relgate points out, since there are only 12 numbers whose cubes are less than 1729, by examining all sums of pairs from this list which might conceivably produce an example smaller than 1729, it is simple matter to verify that there is in fact none less than Ramanujan's number.

Mr Ward went on in fine style to dispose of another problem I posed, namely to find a number which cannot be expressed as a sum of fewer than 19 fourth powers. The answer is 79, as you can easily verify for yourself. (A classmate was actually better, saying that every number can be expressed as a sum of 19 fourth powers — at least if the number has fewer than nine or more than 1409 digits.)

Also in answer to a problem posed in that column, the only two numbers which can be expressed as a sum of fewer than 9 cubes are 23 and 239; all other numbers can be written as the sum of 8 cubes.

Many readers used a micro to try to find four numbers A, B, C, D such that:

$$A^4 + B^4 = C^4 + D^4$$

I hinted that there were such numbers below 160, and this information can be exploited to speed up an otherwise horrendously time-consuming search, as several of you discovered. Mrs R. Raby of Liverpool went one better. Without the aid of a micro she finally managed to come up with the numbers 59, 158, 133, 134 which satisfy the stated requirements.

Going back even further, on March 14, I wrote about negadecimal numbers, using negative number bases and mentioned that I thought that negative base arithmetic had been considered for computer design, providing as it does the advantage of an arithmetic where there is no need for a negative sign.

Professor W. M. Turski, visiting Imperial College London, wrote to tell me that a computer was actually built which used "−2" base numbers both in the arithmetic and in the memory addressing. It was the UMC-1, a solid-state computer of the late 1950s and early 1960s, of which several dozen were made and installed. Does anyone know of any other early computers using non-standard kinds of arithmetic?



Thinking big — but is Qwerty on the way out?

The state of Oregon has turned to the rational keyboard. Christopher Reed reports from San Francisco

Dvorak's new world

AFTER more than 100 years since its invention the old Qwerty typewriter keyboard may be finally yielding to a more rational system.

Federal and local governments and businesses in the US are increasingly, if cautiously, trying out a keyboard which can boost speed and efficiency by 20 per cent or more. "One year ago I would say the chief reaction was resistance. Now it is interest," says Mrs Virginia Russell, president of the Dvorak International Federation, sponsors of the rational keyboard invented by August Dvorak and approved by the American National Standards Institute in Washington.

Dvorak, who died in 1973, devoted his life to his keyboard, but never saw it gain popularity. As a pioneer in ergonomics — the study of man-machine relationships — he had campaigned against the awkwardness and slowness of Qwerty as the traditional line-up is known from the first six letters on English-language keyboards.

It was actually designed deliberately slow because keys jammed in early machines if typists neared their top speeds. Electronic keyboards may now have ruled out jamming, but they cannot alone overcome what is for many typists a deep reluctance to change.

The advent of desk-top computers and software with business applications at executive level have propelled many businessmen and women to the keyboard for the first time. Those who have heard of Dvorak — and Mrs Russell believes alerting them is her first priority — have considered learning it instead of Qwerty. Those who have hesitated began with Qwerty may also be more impressed by a Dvorak-accomplished secretary, the reasoning goes.

Organisations which have decided on larger scale adoption of Dvorak include the nationwide directory assistance telephone service with 11,000 Dvorak terminals, and the US Department of Agriculture. Others who have agreed in principle and are conducting experiments or making gradual switch-overs, are Oregon state and nine other federal departments. In business, Ford Motors have begun a project and DEC, second only to IBM in making business computers, now produces a Dvorak model. Insurance companies and other large manufacturers are also interested.

Unlike Qwerty, where the most frequent English letters, E, T, O, A, N, I, are spread all over the board, Dvorak puts them all in the middle, the vowels on the left and the consonants on the right. The middle row reads: A, O, E, U, I, D, H, T, N, S, With Qwerty, left-handers have one of their fingers constantly on the left hand. Dvorak restores it to 50-50.

Switching electronic boards is simple, and makers such as Keytronic and Wico are producing configurations with dual markings. Apple is making Dvorak conversion capability a standard.

A micro-chip making the switch possible at the touch of a button, has intensified interest in Dvorak, especially as it focuses many purchasers' attention on its existence for the first time. However, the problem is not so much the mechanical switch but the human one and opinions differ on how long it takes to retrain a typist.

In Oregon's government, when Dvorak was first introduced in one department in the late 1970s, it took three months to convert a typist.

beginning with only an hour in the morning and evening. Today, it takes about three weeks, says supervisor Patricia Kaplus.

Others such as Mrs Russell claim one can reach 40 words a minute, a medium to good speed for a Qwerty typist, in 18 hours of practice. Professor Richard Land of Harvard University's Instructional Laboratories says ordinary typists will increase from 40 to 60 words a minute by changing to Dvorak.

Opinions also differ on how easy it is to switch between the two. Ms Kaplus said some operators were forced to abandon Dvorak because they also had to work with Qwerty and could not maintain both. Mrs Russell says it is like being fluent in two languages, one needs only a little time and it all comes back.

For such a commonplace activity, typing has attracted scientists since Christopher Sholes laid out the Qwerty layout in the 1870s. Psychologists continue to be fascinated by the fact that even an average typist can easily exceed the rate laboratory tests on human reactions would lead one to expect.

An article in the *Scientific American* last year (*The Skill of Typing*) noted the "paradox" of the 250 milli-second latency between perceiving a stimulus and pressing a button should produce a typing rate of 48 words a minute, yet skilled operators can double that. A leading hypothesis is that learning to type well causes the mental processes to overlap, thus producing the "impossible" speeds.

Sadly for the promoter of the Dvorak board, even that study was of Qwerty performance. August Dvorak was credited with noting the overlap phenomenon in 1936.

Learning to talk to the next generation

Philip Leith on the babel of computer languages

SINCE the compiler for a programming language can cost several thousand pounds in both purchase and in annual maintenance, few commercial computing departments can boast a wide range of programming languages for their own use. The problem for software houses which produce compilers and interpreters for these languages is the problem of deciding which language is going to return a profit.

Since there are so many languages available, and more arriving by the month, just how does a software house decide for which language it should choose to produce a compiler? One tactic is to write compilers or interpreters for only well established languages — Cobol, Fortran or Basic, say — or to produce them for languages for which there is a large market, for example, ADA, for example. But then there would be missing out on a large potential market for other less popular products — Lisp or Forth for example.

these languages derive from the academic world.

It has been said that university researchers love nothing better than to invent a new programming language. Some have been successful, and fortunately have not been obscured by the many unsuccessful languages. It is comparatively easy to invent a new language, but the trouble with inventing one is that unless it is intended only for mental exercise, it is necessary to write an interpreter or compiler to prove it works in the desired manner.

Typically, one makes a prototype compiler that runs slowly and produces inefficient and inelegant (but workable) code for the computer which is handiest for the implementer to use — that is, the machine down the corridor. This, of course, does not imply that this is the machine which most of the potential users of the language would wish to use.

At this stage the project might well terminate because of the awful nature of the language or because other less onerous projects beckon. If the project continues, the code for the language and implementation have been successful, then there is often a need for a better quality compiler or compilers for other, more popular machines. It is at this point that commercial software houses enter the field, and with the cost of writing a compiler at around \$100,000 or so (an interpreter is usually

cheaper) they must choose judiciously.

Prolog, from the artificial intelligence camp, is one language for which an interpreter might be considered. Commerce and industry have recently eyed the language, primarily, perhaps, because logic programming has been chosen by the Japanese ICOT programme as the "missing link" uniting the various fields of computer science.

Whether or not this language will actually repay large industrial investment is another story. There are substantial criticisms. Terry Winograd, a prominent artificial intelligence researcher, has said of it: "There's a small class of problems for which this works great, and you can do beautiful demonstrations on those problems. But when you have to deal with time-sequential behaviour, like an operating system, you get away from the nice qualities of Prolog and have to use the ugly features, and you lose the advantage."

For commercial users of a language it is just such large operating system-type software which they most need to which well tried programming methodologies. One technique is to allow the eventual users to interact with computers using very high level (almost, not, natural) languages. Will commerce and industry use these?

Winograd noted seeing a language designed to be used by accountants and pointed out his view: "We are going to

is that there are often vested interests involved in the selling of a programming language. David Moffat, in a recent critique of Modula-2 in *SigPlan*, noted that the fact that this process was underway. Modula-2 was devised by Niklaus Wirth the creator of the Pascal programming language and many people have been suggesting that Modula-2 will become the successor to Pascal; if this is so, then obviously it is a language which software houses must take seriously.

Moffat, though, claims that the language is not superior to any Pascal dialect and, in fact, is inferior in many ways to other new languages. To explain the media and marketing hype which is beginning to surround the language, Moffat points out that: "all the persons who serve to gain by the spread of Modula exhibit unbridled enthusiasm for it. This includes all the distributors of Modula compilers and the authors of Modula books."

Not only are many traditional languages available, but there are also moves in commerce which are away from these well tried programming methodologies. One technique is to allow the eventual users to interact with computers using very high level (almost, not, natural) languages. Will commerce and industry use these?

see a decreasing emphasis on software in the 1980s. What I mean by that is software viewed as programs written to execute sequences of instructions on computers. The important emergence in the 1980s is of a more coherent theory and understanding and collection of tools for developing all of those languages which aren't programming languages. An example of these tools are spreadsheets for small businesses.

Even ADA, the Department of Defence language, which is seen by many as the next de rigueur language is problematic. The problems arise from the severe criticisms of ADA; without these criticisms ADA might otherwise be the natural language to choose because of the substantial support and finance behind it. However, it was not so long ago that Tony Hoare, Professor of Computing at Oxford, pleaded that because of its baroque structure it should not be allowed in weapon systems and other dangerous devices. It would, he claimed, be untestable and unsafe. Such comments do not encourage confidence: if a language is prone to allowing errors, few will wish to program in it.

Overall, we might suggest the best method for deciding which language to choose is to use a pin, a list of languages and a blindfold.

Philip Leith is at the Queens University of Belfast faculty of law.

Shell U.K. Exploration and Production

ECONOMIC APPRAISAL ANALYST

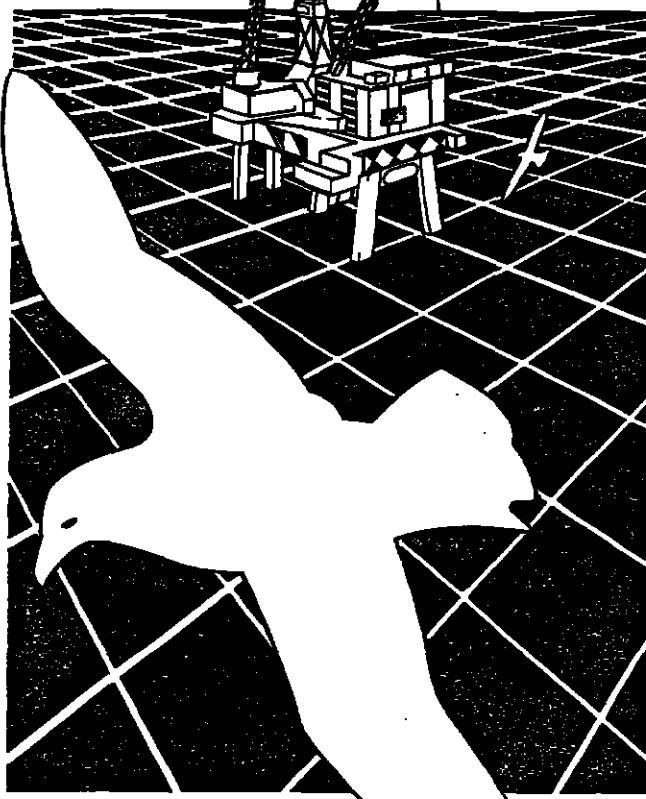
Already one of the leading offshore operating companies, the results of exploration surveys conducted show that we have the potential to maintain that position into the next decade and beyond. Realising that potential will, of course, involve immense capital investment, investment which will have to be preceded by detailed economic and financial appraisal if the right decisions are to be made. In the position for which we are now recruiting, you will, therefore, have an important role to play in translating technological achievement into commercial success.

In addition to carrying out the evaluations required to ensure profitable contract and project financing, you will be involved in the assessment of major contractual claims and insurance decisions and in the provision of advice on the implications of such Treasury related factors as interest rates, exchange rates and indices. More generally, you will also be expected to contribute towards the creation of a company-wide economic awareness through close liaison with non-commercial personnel.

To fulfil your role, you will need a good degree in an economics, accountancy or business subject, an awareness of Treasury principles and a working knowledge of economic and financial appraisal techniques. A financial qualification, experience of computer modelling and an understanding of the North Sea Tax regime would be advantageous. Moreover, in terms of personality, this position clearly calls for self-confidence, self-motivation and highly developed communication skills.

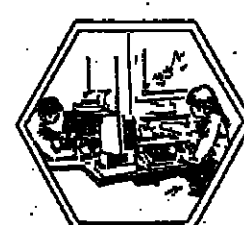
In return for the service we seek, and reflecting our leading position, we will offer an attractive remuneration package, a high standard of training and genuine opportunities for career progression.

Please telephone 01-257 5001 for an application form, or write, enclosing a full c.v. to: Shell U.K. Exploration and Production, Attention UEP/152, Shell-Max House, Strand, London WC2R 0DX. Please quote Ref. G23585.



NEW GENERATION
NORTH SEA PROJECTS

Ferranti Computer Systems Ltd.



— the best of British innovation
— the variety to stretch your technical ability



FERRANTI
Wythenshawe
Division



— the scope to match
your career goals

Large scale process control, information management, office automation... wherever the commercial or industrial need, the Wythenshawe Division of Ferranti Computer Systems is engaged in designing, manufacturing and commissioning advanced custom made systems and a wide range of computer based products including office automation.

To say we're expanding is an understatement—we're justifiably proud of increasing turnover by over 200% in 5 years. We are part of Ferranti, a British company renowned for its inventiveness.

34 years ago Ferranti produced the world's first commercially available digital computer. To ensure that we continue to set the technological pace for the future we currently require bright people to join us in a variety of senior and intermediate roles:

● Project Managers

With extensive experience of managing complex real time computer projects.

● Systems Designers

Considerable design experience covering real time information and communications or process management systems.

● Real time Programmers

At least 5 years experience including CORAL, PASCAL, FORTRAN or C.

● Project Engineers & Support Engineers

Minimum 4 years experience including the ability to configure equipment for a variety of systems and liaise with customers and outside contractors.

● Design Engineers

Electronics Engineers and computer scientists with creative systems design skills. At least 2 years experience should include communications systems, Z80/INTEL microprocessor based systems or input/output for process applications.

● Microprocessor Systems Development Programmers

Minimum 2-3 years experience in the development of microprocessor based products using Intel, Z80 or Motorola microcomputers.

● Support Programmers

At least 2-3 years experience of mini/micro software. Customer support roles.

● Technical Authors

Degree/HND qualified with experience of producing technical support documentation for computer systems and equipment.

● Sales & Marketing

London and Manchester based

Successful professionals in industrial, communication or information systems; in office or computer products.

If you know the North West, you'll know that the South Manchester/Cheshire area is a particularly attractive place to live and work... and if you're a stranger to the area, it'll surprise you with the wide variety of recreational and residential facilities. We provide generous relocation expenses as part of a good benefits package that supports excellent salary ranges.

Write with detailed c.v. or telephone for an application form, quoting reference S19, to Ann Sargison, Training & Resources Manager, Ferranti Computer Systems Limited, Wythenshawe Division, Silchester Way, Manchester, M22 5LA. Tel: 061-458 3355.

FERRANTI
Selling technology

Ferranti Computer Systems Ltd.

Go deeper into Submarine Systems Engineering

BRACKNELL

Ferranti is an international company specialising in advanced digital computer systems. At Bracknell in particular we have been involved in the development of data handling and related systems for both the Royal Navy and overseas navies for over 25 years.

Now, to join our expanding submarine systems team, we're looking for two young engineers.

Both roles offer valuable scope to gain broad-ranging insight into the functioning of a highly innovative systems engineering group. The expertise you'll acquire will then equip you to take advantage of the considerable development opportunities that will arise, taking your career in either a technical and/or project management direction.

SYSTEMS ENGINEER with 2-3 years' experience and a degree in Electronics or Physics — As part of a small but expanding team involved with the development of a new Submarine Tactical and Fire Control system you will be involved in technical investigations, including report writing and effort estimating. In addition, you will be required to progress investigations undertaken by other departments and sub-contractors. Ref: B/1552/G.

SYSTEMS ENGINEER — a recent graduate in Electronics or similar — You will join a small, expanding project team and take responsibility for the day to day running of a computer based configuration control system for various MOD (N) Contracts, involving you in close liaison across a total range of disciplines. Ref: B/1497/G.

Salaries are competitive; benefits and conditions all you would expect from a major technological company.

Find out more by telephoning/writing (quoting the appropriate reference number) to: Ferranti Computer Systems, Western Road, Bracknell, Berks. Tel: Bracknell 483232, ext. 3934.

FERRANTI
Selling technology

cipfa

Project Administrator c.£7,000

Cipfa Computer Services is a rapidly expanding computer consultancy company specialising in the provision of quality computer services to the public sector.

We currently require a Project Administrator to assist with the administrative work arising from the continued expansion of the company into new market areas. The successful applicant will quickly become a key member of a team assigned to develop a particular market sector and they will be responsible for the provision of full administrative support to the team members.

The job requires a self-motivated person who can work both with the minimum of supervision and under pressure. Ideally applicants should be educated to degree standard or equivalent and previous relevant experience would be useful though not essential.

Located in attractive premises near Charing Cross we can offer an attractive benefits package which includes 22 days holiday, LVA, interest free season ticket loan and a pleasant working environment.

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding position, please send a comprehensive CV to Lynn Butler, CIPFA Computer Services Ltd, 3 Robert Street, London, WC2N 6BH.

Providing a quality computer service to the Public Sector

CCS

Information Controller to develop and maintain major database

London — package in range £14k-£17k

The Corporation of Lloyd's, responsible for providing a wide range of services to the Lloyd's insurance market, has a planning team concerned with strategic planning activities, a vital part of which involves controlling the Corporation's information resources.

We require a high calibre person to maintain and develop an information and statistics framework in response to the information needs, both management and operational, of Lloyd's. This position carries responsibility for the control of data through standards of security and quality and for meeting statutory requirements.

The successful candidate could have a background in planning, finance, insurance, management services or a similar environment but must be familiar with statistics and computer systems. A strong commitment to the need for management information is essential.

A flexible and enlightened approach is required with the ability to communicate effectively at all levels within the organisation as well as good team skills.

The probable age range for this position is 27-35 and the career development opportunities, for the mature self-motivated individual, into a more senior management role are excellent.

The Corporation offers an attractive remuneration package including benefits associated with a leading financial institution.

Please send applications in the form of a C.V. to: Neil Oldfield, Senior Personnel Officer, Corporation of Lloyd's, London House, 6 London Street, London EC3R 7AB.

LOYD'S OF LONDON

Product Development Technologist

Clifford's Dairy Products is a modern processing and manufacturing dairy, producing liquid milk, cream, milk shake base, yogurt, cottage cheese and other food products.

Our Product Development Department provides creative and innovative solutions to the development of new food products and enhancements to our existing product range. We are now looking for someone to provide additional technical production expertise working within a small but very dynamic department.

The person we need should be qualified to at least HND/Degree level in Food Science/Technology and have at least three years experience of new product/process development. The job holder will have staff responsibility, reporting to the Manager, New Product Development.

Starting salary is in the order of £8,750 per annum and other benefits include optional contributory pension scheme, subsidised canteen, free cream issue and company products at reduced prices. Applications should be made in writing, giving details of qualifications and experience to the Personnel Manager, Clifford's Dairy Products, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1QA.

Clifford's Dairy Products



University of London: The London School of Economics and Political Science

ESRC Centre in Economic Computing

Applications are invited for a post of Computer Programmer in the ESRC Centre in Economic Computing at the London School of Economics.

The Centre is currently developing computer systems, both on micro-computers and mainframes, providing convenient access to economic data bases and the management and analysis of economic data. The applicant should have programming skills which are easy to use and which exploit some of the new techniques being developed by the research community.

An excellent opportunity is offered to a programmer with some experience of applications systems and anxious to learn more. A good recent graduate will be considered.

Salary in the range £8,753-£11,583 (including London Allowance) on the academic-related Grade 1A scale. Appointment will be to 30th June, 1986, in the first instance. Application forms and further particulars available, on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope, from the Administrative Officer, Room HS10, The London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Closing date for applications: 14th June, 1985.

RIVERSIDE HEALTH AUTHORITY BANSTAD HOSPITAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

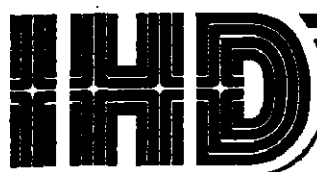
Transfer of patients between institutions upon the closure of a large psychiatric hospital

Psychology graduates to participate in a two-year research project to examine the effects and outcomes of the closure of a large psychiatric institution.

The work will largely consist of the assessment of patients and their statistical and computing methods would be an advantage. Supervision will be given by Ms D. Rona, Senior Clinical Psychologist.

Salary scale: £4,795-£5,684 per annum plus £527 per annum London weighting allowance.

Application form and job description from: Miss B. P. Kingsbury, Personnel/Training Officer, Banstead Hospital, Sutton Lane, Sutton, SM2 6PA. Tel 01-842 6611 ext 69.



ASTON UNIVERSITY

The Best of Both Worlds Interdisciplinary Higher Degrees — Engineering

If you're looking to further your engineering career, then take a look at our Interdisciplinary Higher Degrees. They combine research and course work at Aston University whilst on assignment with one of our collaborating companies. You'll be paid a full salary during the whole time you're studying for your Higher Degree.

To qualify you must have a 1st or 2nd Honours Degree in Engineering or an Applied Science, be under 31 and eligible for Research Council Awards. You may be a recent graduate or someone who's already had experience in an engineering environment. By blending practical work experience with research, you'll be advancing your career and enhancing your earnings potential — whilst getting paid for it. Find out how you can get the best of both worlds. Post the coupon today.

I'd like to find out more about your Interdisciplinary and Total Technology Ph.D. Schemes.

Name
Address
Degree
University

Interdisciplinary Higher Degree Schemes Office, Aston University,
70 Duke Street, Birmingham B4 7ET. Tel: No. 021-359 3611 Ext. 4581.

General Manager

DEMAND (Design and Manufacture for Disability) founded in 1980, now requires a full time General Manager. This is a new post made necessary by the Charity's rapid growth.

Responsibilities of the person appointed will cover administration, co-ordination of workshop projects and fund raising. Salary, between £9,000 and £12,000 pa. will depend on experience.

Please send c.v. to The Hon. Director, DEMAND, 99 Lenton Street, London E1 8EY.

DEMAND

Design & Manufacture for Disability

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL PHYSICS TECHNICIAN IV/III

West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE. 01-600 9000

£5,488 — £9,307 depending on age and experience.

ANAESTHETIC LABORATORY

Experience of patient monitoring technique, including the Calibration and Maintenance of Intra-arterial Pressure Measuring Equipment, Blood Gas Analysers and Ion Selective Electrode. Knowledge of Intra Aortic Balloon Pumping would be an advantage.

For informal visit contact Mrs. A. Wright, Ext. 2458. Application forms from the Personnel Department on ext 3188. Quoting reference MM/41.

APPOINTMENTS

Science and Technology □ Computing □ General □

THE GUARDIAN Thursday May 23 1985 17

PROJECT MANAGERS

UP TO £17K

SYSTEMS DESIGNERS

UP TO £14K

“Certainly one of the most innovative environments in Information Technology today...”

British Telecom has become a meeting place for some of the most innovative minds in information technology. It is here, in the National Networks Information Systems Division, that some of our most critical and innovative research is undertaken. We are looking for people who can help us develop new hardware and software systems, experimental and prototype systems, and design, develop and implement intelligent workstations design to planning and intelligent workstations design to name but a few.

Every one of these projects will have a direct and far-reaching effect on the future of British Telecom. If you are a systems designer or project manager, we are looking for the most talented and motivated people to work with some of the very finest equipment in the country.

IBM 3084Q...

If the challenge of working with our IBM 3084Q systems in this genuine state-of-the-art environment appeals to you, then we are equally interested in looking very closely at you. In particular, we will be looking for certain key

qualities and qualifications common to both Project Managers and Systems Designers... For a start, we will be looking for a good knowledge of mathematics or engineering degree matched by significant experience... the sort of design and development work that we have seen in your previous work... the sort of design and development work that we have seen in your previous work... the sort of design and development work that we have seen in your previous work...

PROVEN LEADERSHIP... It's a demanding job of requirements and... for Project Managers... there's one further vital quality which we will insist upon... proven management which we want professionals who can lead from the front and command the respect of a very

talented team of Systems Designers. You must have the experience, intellect and confidence to motivate others in a highly innovative environment.

INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE...

Now perhaps you can appreciate why we call this "one of the most innovative environments in information technology today". However, it also happens to be one of the best paid challenges in the country. We offer high rewards for high achievers. If you can contribute in such a genuine leading-edge environment, please telephone Anthony Piggott on 01-260 2222 or write today to: British Telecom, National Networks Division, Room 3017, Euston Tower, 298 Euston Road, London NW1 3DG. Please quote reference G20.



British TELECOM National Networks

Head of Quality and Standards in Training

£20,010-£24,315

The Manpower Services Commission's Quality and Standards Branch leads the Commission's efforts to secure acceptance of objective standards of achievement as the basis for entry to jobs, movement between jobs, and within training and vocational education. In addition to encouraging development of standards of training, particularly in sections with no such tradition, the Branch is developing, in association with validating and standard setting bodies, methodology on content, assessment and validation of performance; at the Government's request the Commission is seeking to develop the Youth Training Scheme so as to increase opportunities for vocational training leading to specific qualifications.

As Head of the Branch you will be the Commission's chief quality adviser responsible to the Director of Youth Training and, through him, to the Commission for developing the Commission's general approach to standards, assessment and certification, and specifically for developing and maintaining quality and standards in the Youth Training Scheme. You will have direct responsibility for 7 multi-

disciplinary teams of professional and administrative staff and links with 9 regional Quality Advisers. You should have held a senior post in the industrial training/educational field, have first hand experience in development/planning/direction/management of education or training programmes to meet industrial needs; have an up-to-date knowledge of curriculum and educational developments relevant to Youth Training and vocational education; and have knowledge of standard setting bodies and how they operate. You should have proven management and negotiating skills and the background, status and ability to influence professional and national bodies concerned with standard setting, technical and vocational education and training, and training development.

Salary (under review): £20,010 - £24,315. The post is based in Sheffield and is for a period of 3 years initially with a possibility of extension or conversion to a permanent appointment. Loan or secondment will be considered. For further details and an application form (to be returned by 11 June 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1B, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/8542. The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.



Manpower Services Commission

Production Managers

for automated mail and despatch areas
c. £14 - £16K

Access. The Joint Credit Card Company has an extensive mailing/despatch function, including statements, letters, bulletins, mail shots and microfilm media to be prepared and despatched daily, within strict deadlines.

With the dramatic growth in our business, there is a constant need for improvement and the implementation of new systems.

We are looking for experienced Managers male or female with a background in automated mail systems, despatching computerised output and print, in large volumes.

Man-management, organisational skills and experience in both long-term production planning and day-to-day scheduling are key requirements for this job. The successful applicants will receive a highly attractive salary, with a full range of benefits including preferential loans and mortgage facilities, non-contributory pension, life assurance and BUPA. Relocation to Southend will be available where appropriate.

Applications, giving relevant details of career to date, should be sent to The Recruitment Manager, The Joint Credit Card Company Limited, Chartwell House, 365 Chartwell Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5ST.

Add credit to your career...



Scientists/Engineers Opportunities in R&D

MIDLANDS RESEARCH STATION - SOLIHULL

Our Research Station at Solihull is concerned with advanced research into the production of synthetic natural gas, safety aspects of gas storage and transmission, together with the industrial and commercial utilisation of gas.

We now have some exciting opportunities for young Scientists and Engineers with an interest in fluid-flow or combustion.

Physical Modelling

up to £11,645

You will join a highly motivated and committed team engaged in detailed laboratory investigations of the turbulent mixing and combustion of jets of gas from pressurised storage. Some knowledge of fluid-flow measurement techniques and of physical modelling methods would be useful.

Remote Sensing

up to £11,645

The need is for a Scientist/Engineer who will be part of a team using a remote sensing laser technique for the measurement of gas concentration in field-scale gas dispersion experiments. The work involves the development of computer hardware/software for data acquisition and aspects of optical engineering.

Please write for an application form, quoting MRS 480, to: Senior Personnel Officer, Midlands Research Station, Wharf Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2JW.

LONDON RESEARCH STATION - SW LONDON

The Mathematics and Computing Division of our London Research Station is the main centre for the development and support of technical software for engineers working on a wide range of gas-utilisation projects.

Scientific Programming & Mathematical Modelling

up to £11,014

We now require a high calibre Mathematician, Scientist, Engineer or Computer specialist, to become involved in challenging work in software development and technical consultancy. In particular, we are looking for people skilled in one or more of the following areas: Numerical Analysis; Optimisation Methods; Statistical Analysis; Mathematical Modelling and Computer Graphics.

These positions offer the opportunity to work on projects such as on-line monitoring and optimal control of the Corporation's national transmission system, simulation of oil and gas fields, modelling large gas networks and digital mapping.

Candidates should possess a good honours degree in a numerical discipline and have the ability to apply modern theoretical techniques to practical problems. You should enjoy writing computer software to solve engineering problems, and experience of using FORTRAN would be an advantage.

For an application form and job description, please write to the Personnel Officer (Fulham), London Research Station, Michael Road, Fulham, London SW6 2AD, quoting reference LIS/112.

All of these posts are challenging and rewarding opportunities offering considerable potential for future career development. Applicants should possess a first or second class honours degree in Engineering or Science. We are keen to hear both from new graduates, or those with relevant experience.

Apart from the salaries shown, British Gas offer first class job conditions and excellent benefits, including relocation expenses where appropriate.

BRITISH GAS

an equal opportunities employer

BOOKKEEPER

required for Retail Agency or part-time basis. W1 area. Salary by arrangement. Telephone 01-439 1456

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

TEMPORARY PROGRAMMER IN THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Applications are invited for a temporary post of Programmer in the School of Law, for one year full-time or up to two years part-time from 1st September 1985. The post is part of a Computer Based initiative to extend the role of computers in the teaching of Law. The job will require self-motivation, an ability to evaluate author and document software systems to a high standard, and the instruction of non-technical users. The project will be based on microcomputers running the MSDOS operating system, and will utilise local and wide-area networks. A knowledge of database and expert system packages will be an advantage. The ability to produce portable solutions which will adapt easily to different environments will be of paramount importance. Salary on the 'Other Related' A Scale: £7,520 - £12,150 p.a. (under review), according to age and experience. Further details and application forms are available from The Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Please quote Reference 62/8524. Closing date for receipt of applications is 15th June 1985.

COVENT GARDEN

Millbank Publications require intelligent, enthusiastic people to sell advertising space in internationally distributed year books. Salary plus commission means over £15K p.a. realistic earnings. Excellent promotion prospects. 20+ and eager to succeed? Phone today, Clive Beer on 01-379 3036.



The world of science & technology



in The Guardian every Thursday

Helping the public sector

to £25,000 + car

Peat Marwick Management Consultants are helping a wide variety of public sector clients to build for the future. We work for central and local government, nationalised industries, development corporations, health authorities, universities and a large number of other public sector bodies.

Due to continuing expansion our Public Sector Group is looking for first class people who can handle challenging assignments in policy analysis, organisational and financial planning, systems design and implementation or management reviews.

If you are aged between 25 and 35, have a good degree, can demonstrate achievement in one of these areas and have the determination essential to successful consultancy, we should like to hear from you.

Please write, enclosing your curriculum vitae and telling us how you can contribute, quoting reference PSG 3K; to John Fielden, 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.



Services to the Public Sector

Finance Executive

up to c. £15,000

Two years ago, the Greater London Enterprise Board embarked on an ambitious programme of industrial regeneration and the creation of socially useful jobs. By the end of its second year of operation, it had invested in nearly 200 different firms which will preserve or create over 3000 jobs. Its TECHNOLOGY DIVISION plays a leading role in this programme and has a vacancy for a qualified accountant. A good track record and practical experience in management accounting systems, financial reporting and the preparation of budgets and estimates is expected.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the Financial Control of five Technology Networks and will work closely with Technologists and other GLEB departments. Secondment or part-time posts may be considered in some instances.

Write with detailed C.V. to Dr. Mike Cooley, Director of Technology, Greater London Enterprise Board Limited, 63-67 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BD.

The Greater London Enterprise Board is an equal opportunities employer, and applications are welcome from candidates regardless of sex, race, nationality, age, or marital status, and from registered disabled persons.



Market Modelling

£15,000 negotiable

J. Walter Thompson is looking for a senior analyst to further strengthen the market modelling and analysis function within the agency.

It is increasingly necessary to measure and demonstrate the return on investment that our clients are getting from their advertising expenditure. Demand for market modelling and related work is expanding rapidly as the agency's new computer systems come on line.

The person we seek will have three or four years' direct experience of applying econometric techniques to marketing data, and a thorough knowledge of the relevant statistical and computer routines. Most important, we need someone who can communicate simply and with enthusiasm, both face to face and on paper, with non-specialists.

This will be a most challenging post offering much potential for development.

Please send a c.v. giving two references: Laurence Hagan, Director of Marketing Development, J. Walter Thompson, 40 Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AJ.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Telephone: LONDON 01-278 2332 MANCHESTER 061-832 7200

CLINICAL TRIAL SERVICE UNIT

Oxford University

Computer Programmer

required by medical research group responsible for running international clinical trials on heart attack, leukaemia and other diseases. This person will be responsible for designing and writing a series of Fortran programs for the entry, checking and eventual analysis of large amounts of data. Several years' relevant programming experience is essential. Salary in the range £7,520 - £12,150 or £11,205 - £14,825, according to qualifications and experience. The post will be for two years initially, starting as soon as possible. Applications (giving the names and addresses of two referees) should be sent to: Richard Peto, Reader in Cancer Studies, Clinical Trial Service Unit, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford OX2 6HE.

WORK IN LEISURE

PGL offers opportunities to work with children or families, long or short periods as activity coordinators, sports, or in a wide range of supporting domestic and administrative roles at residential activity centres. For application form from Personnel Officer, PGL, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Tel: (0885) 64211. Jobs 18-30's.



CORPORATE BIOSCIENCE GROUP

ORGANIC CHEMISTS

A newly formed team has posts available at the post-doctoral and also first degree, or equivalent, level for Organic Chemists to carry out innovative research in synthesis.

The team is involved in the synthesis of carbohydrates and analogues. Experience in this field is desirable, but not essential.

The successful candidates will enter a vigorous research environment with excellent prospects for career development. The jobs will initially be located in Cheshire but eventually in Berkshire.

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The Company operates house purchase, profit sharing and contributory pension schemes and offers financial assistance towards removal expenses, both on joining and on the subsequent move.

Applications giving details of age, qualifications and experience should be sent as soon as possible to:-

Miss E H Lauer, Personnel Dept, Corporate Bioscience Group, Imperial Chemical Industries PLC, P.O. Box 11, The Heath, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QE. Closing date 6th June 1985.

NORTH EAST THAMES REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

SENIOR STATISTICIAN

ST. FAITH'S HOSPITAL, Brentwood, Essex. Reference: 258A. Salary up to £11,205 (Inkleave - increase pending).

We require a member of staff to provide statistical support for key regional activities, including Operational and Strategic Planning, Regional and District Reviews and Performance Indicators. The statistician as a whole is responsible for the maintenance, operation and development of standard statistical systems. The senior statistician relies on the department's work in these areas to assist him in the quest to provide statistical support in the key areas.

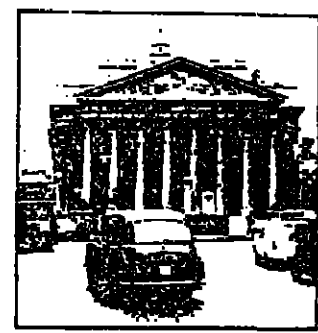
Suitable applicants will have at least two years' experience of analysing large data banks and be in possession of a numerate degree (mathematics is a major component) or a membership of the Institute of Statisticians.

STATISTICIAN

Reference: 258B. Up to £9,958 (inclusive of London Weighting).

The department also has a vacancy for a statistician who will be required to carry out statistical studies in the Key Regional activities such as development of Performance Indicators and analysis of routine Health Service statistics. In support of the studies carried out, computer programs will have to be written in addition, the job requires development of user friendly information packages for use by non-technical officers. Application forms and job descriptions can be obtained by contacting the North East Thames R.H.A. Personnel Department at 40 Eschbourne Terrace, London W2. Tel: 01-262 0089 (24 hour service). Please quote the appropriate reference number. Closing date 13th June 1985.

Whatever Next... or how the bid for Debenhams could change the high street



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

THERE was a certain inevitability about the bid for Debenhams.

Forget about the fuff in the Sunday newspapers hunting the shares. The plain fact was that Debenhams is worth more

broken up than it is worth together.

It was only a matter of time before one of the strings of potential predators would step forward and seek to liberate the assets, and repackaging them into something different.

The present plan is interesting, as you would expect from two well-known retailers like Mr Halpern and Sir Terence. Some of the ideas for the group's space are discussed opposite.

Both men have been able to devise products which serve markets that were not very well served before. Both are backed by strong organisations. Sir Terence has defied critics in the City who were concerned that he was, with the Mothercare merger, spreading himself too thin.

Mr Halpern has done all the right things with Burton, transforming public perception of the Burton name, creating the Next lookalike, Principles, and so on.

Retail is detail — and

both are very good detailers. And yet there is a question mark over these two. Maybe some other champion retailer will come in with another project, maybe even the much-publicised management buy-out will emerge. Maybe the banking business will be hived off. Whatever happens, something radically different will all the Debenhams sites in 18 months' time.

But that, unless you happen to be a Debenhams shareholder, is not really the most interesting issue. The really interesting thing is what will be the next great winner in retailing: what happens next after Next? If you were looking at places where this might happen, a good starting point would be Burton and Next.

Sir Terence has probably done as much to improve the standards throughout the country as Elizabeth David did to lift our eating habits after the last war.

Mr Halpern has shown real retailing flair. In his way he is almost in the Sir John Sainsbury league. Hand the great wodge of Debenhams space and something exciting ought to happen.

How will they create that excitement? The crystal ball is no better than anyone else's but it does give some pointers. Let's list four.

First, there is the changing profile of the population. You have only to look at the slump in projected student numbers to see that retailers face an aging population.

One of the clever things about Next was the way it geared itself to professional 30-year-olds rather than people in their 20s. It is the exact reverse of the late 1960s, where tastes became younger, in response to the new spending power of the children of the post-war baby boom.

Following the Next genera-

tion upwards as it gets older, identifying the products which satisfy this group and finding ways of delivering these products to it, is going to be a prize worth chasing.

Second, the margins are up-market. People want clothes which don't fall to bits. They want cloth which feels good to touch. This means a further shift back towards natural fibres: look at the way linen is re-emerging as a high-fashion fabric.

One of the most interesting places to watch here will be Marks and Spencer, for Lord Ragner is 'overridingly eager to give shoppers a feeling of quality in fabrics.'

St Michael does give this in food, but has somewhat lost the ability to do it with its clothes. In a way, Marks is hunting for the clothing equivalent of the chicken Kiev. It has not quite found it, but the fact that it is looking is interesting.

Third, there is exclusive-

ness. A cartoonist's standby has long been two women appearing at a party in exactly the same clothes. But even not particularly fashionable women might feel a touch irritated to see their children along with every one else's, dressed in standard Mothercare and St Michael. The cheap solution of buying mass-market children's clothes in the US is also closed by the current level of the dollar.

But this raises the absolutely crucial issue of whether giant national retailers can find ways of selling exclusively. Lots of small lines? More use of out-of-the-way designers? Greater freedom within defined limits for different area buyers to shop around for merchandise?

Maybe the giant retailer becomes more a loose holding company, supporting a cluster of boutiques, each of which has a distinctive style. Maybe it can't be done.

Fourth, there is comfort. In as far as shops are com-

peting for the shoppers' time, shopping has to be made into a pleasant experience. At the moment professionals divide shopping into two groups: mission and comparison. Mission is going to the supermarket and buying what you have to buy. Comparison is going to different shops and making a choice between them.

Mission will continue, with the aim being to solve the checkout problem: how to get people in and out of the place with all the stuff they came to buy.

But how will comparison shopping move? As dual income families become the norm, it simply becomes inefficient to have to trudge about from shop to shop to make comparisons. Dual income shoppers have implicitly to cost their time when shopping. And no one wants to get to a shop, find a shop has a disagreeable experience with the sales staff and find a ticket on the car when you come out.

Shops add value to their products by creating a nice environment in which to buy them.

In a way, shops need to become more like hotels and posh ones at that.

Now all this is pretty basic stuff. The problem is how to apply it to existing property such as Debenhams represents.

To be successful the retailer has to score on all four of those themes, and it is by no means clear that high street sites can score high enough. The erosion of the high street may continue. Yet Debenhams represents high street shopping.

Any owner of its property has to think about driving business through the sites, or else simply regard the whole deal as a property investment. That would mean keeping the bits which fitted and discarding the rest.

But can the bidders for Debenhams do something more exciting? And what?

JMB fiasco prompts move to closer scrutiny

Boost for auditors' role in policing the City

By Margaret Pagano and Peter Rodgers

Auditors are to play a far more important role in policing all financial groups in the City following the lessons learnt from the collapse last year of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Bank auditors are already expected to establish closer relationships with the Bank of England's banking supervisory system after the JMB fiasco. The bank's failure, with debts of £245 million, raised so many questions over the liaison between accountants and the Bank's supervision department that it has prompted close scrutiny over all financial firms which may come within its ambit of control.

The Bank of England will, for example, want to forge close links with the accountants of all the new financial groups which will be allowed into the new gilt market.

But the Bank also expects that these relationships will be extended to supervision of all financial markets.

The Bank of England has

still to decide whether it will take legal action against JMB's auditors, Arthur Young, McClelland Moores, for alleged negligence in not having spotted the extent of the troubles at JMB.

The Governor of the Bank of England is due to send the Treasury a report, which is likely to recommend changes in the supervisory system, by the end of the month. The report, which could be made to the public, was not requested by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, following the JMB collapse.

Most of the accountancy profession backs a closer link between bank auditors and the Bank. In a recent report the Institute of Chartered Accountants recommended that a formal link should be established with the Bank, and that it should be given special reports, including prudential and statistical returns on firms.

It also suggested the Bank's investigatory powers should be extended, and it should be given the power to force a

change of auditor in special circumstances. It also recommended that the Bank's supervisory division should be beefed up with accountancy expertise.

There are strong precedents for such formal links. Both of the London and the Stock Exchange have close ties between the auditors of member firms and the respective regulatory bodies.

All Stock Exchange members are required to submit quarterly returns on their business to either of two approved accountants, Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and Peat, Marwick & Mitchell. If there are problems they can directly inform the Exchange's administration or council.

The Exchange is also able to take legal action against firm's auditors as it did in the cases of the Mitton, Butler and Hedderwick failures, which were eventually settled out of court.

At Lloyd's all accounts submitted by the syndicates have to be passed by approved auditors.

Tories curb spread of wealth

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

TREASURY figures published in a Parliamentary written answer show that the redistribution of the nation's wealth, which was taking place during the 1970s, has come to an abrupt halt under the present Tory government.

While the percentage of Britain's wealth owned by the richest one per cent of the population fell from 21 per cent in 1971 to 13 per cent in 1979, it fell only marginally further to 11 per cent by 1982, the latest year for which figures are available.

There was almost no decline in the proportion of the country's wealth controlled by the richest five per cent of the population between 1979 and 1982, after sharp falls in the preceding eight years.

The figures, presented by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Biffen, in reply to the Labour MP for Coventry South, Mr Dave Nellist, also indicate that the share of wealth owned by the richest 25 per cent of the population remained at the same level — between 56 per cent and 59 per cent — over the three years up to 1982.

Other figures included in Mr Biffen's answer show that the richest one per cent of the population in the UK now earn more than £20,000 a year before tax, while 1.6 million earn between £15,000 and £20,000. Further up the salary ladder, 600 people are estimated to earn £250,000 annually, although these figures exclude the expense account benefits accorded to Britain's best paid executives.

A total of 45,000 people earn between £50,000 and £100,000.

Zimbabwe eases controls

From Andrew Meldrum in Harare

The Zimbabwe Government has announced a 30 per cent increase in foreign currency allocations to private industry, as well as the lifting of the ban on the remittance of company dividends to foreign investors.

The Finance Minister, Bernard Chidzero, said that the increase in foreign currency allocations had been made possible by Zimbabwe's improved economic performance this year. The liberalising measures should also, in the medium term, make Zimbabwe a more attractive proposition to foreign investors, as they will be able to remit their profits and dividends in foreign exchange from January, 1986, he said.

Such remittances will be permitted over a six-year period. The sum to be remitted will be put in special bonds earning four per cent interest and secured by the amount will be remitted each year for six years. The remittance of dividends to foreign investors had been suspended at the end of March last year.

The liberalising foreign exchange restrictions show a significant improvement in Zimbabwe's economy, due to a bumper agricultural harvest and successful austerity measures.

Mr Chidzero's decision has been hailed as a step in the right direction by businessmen, bankers, economists and diplomats.

Three years of drought in southern Africa and the worldwide recession forced Zimbabwe — one of black Africa's most prosperous and diversified economies — to adopt strict austerity measures. Now the economic outlook for 1985 is "cautiously optimistic," according to one Zimbabwean economist.

The balance of trade registered a surplus of 200 million Zimbabwe dollars (about £110 million) for 1984, up from a deficit in 1983, thanks to increased exports of cotton, tobacco and minerals, as well as a reduction in imports.

The happy balance of trade could increase in 1985, according to experts, notably because of the good rains this year which brought in a harvest of more than three million tons of maize, allowing for the export of a million tons of the region's staple grain.

Zimbabwe's balance of payments still registered a deficit, but it showed a remarkable improvement. By blocking the remittance of dividends to foreign investors in March last year the government made a big saving. More savings were made from stringent cuts in foreign exchange allocations to industry. One economist estimates that over three years, and including the Zimbabwe dollar's 30 per cent devaluation, industry's foreign currency allocations were effectively cut by 60 per cent.

Surprise for City

By our City Staff

CITY eyebrows were raised yesterday by an unexpected government decision to change the way it repays the growth of the money supply each month. The 14-month target period has been dropped in favour of a 12-month growth comparison.

Although some analysts welcomed the move as long overdue others criticised the most recent policy as unorthodox in the usually conservative Economic Progress Report. A Treasury spokesman said there was absolutely no intention of using the change to fudge the figures.

The change is aimed at reducing fluctuations in the reported figures early in the government's target period, but City economists were suspicious at first because it comes immediately after a very bad set of money supply figures for April. They were calmed by the evidence that the April result looks almost as bad under the new method of calculation, which would, however, have kept sterling growth within rather than outside its target range last spring and summer.

Programming for a Chinese chat

By Maggie Brown

THE BRITISH Government yesterday announced official backing for a novel research project that will work on developing the first computer in the world to be able to "listen and talk" — in Chinese.

Whatever is said in Chinese to the machine will automatically appear on its screen in Chinese script, its British academic promoters promise.

The scheme is the brainchild of a company called Singex Speech Technology, which pulls together Chinese language experts at the

Icahn bids \$600m for TWA

From Mark Tran in Washington

The New York investor, Mr Carl Icahn, has stepped up his attacks on Trans World Airlines by offering to buy up the rest of TWA's shares that he does not already own. In a letter to the TWA board, Mr Icahn said a group he leads, AFC Industries, will offer \$18 per share, or a total of \$488.7 million for 75 per cent of the company's stock.

TWA's president, Mr C. E. Meyer, said Mr Icahn's unsolicited proposal will be given consideration. But until now, the airline has been fighting tooth and nail to ward off Mr Icahn.

In full page advertisements in newspapers on Monday, Mr Icahn said that if you thought we'd stand aside and do nothing while you try to

take over our company — think again."

In other defensive actions, TWA is pursuing its application that seeks a Department of Transportation enquiry into Mr Icahn's attempt to acquire control of the company and to review his fitness to operate an airline.

It has filed lawsuits in the Federal court in New York and a state court in Missouri, where it has sizeable operations, charging the Icahn group with violating securities laws in accumulating TWA holdings. It also is seeking an injunction preventing Mr Icahn from buying more of the airline's stock and an order requiring his group to sell the stock it has already acquired.

Although Mr Icahn's letter does not represent a formal tender offer under securities

law, the board would be expected to consider the offer. A formal offer would require a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission and notice to shareholders.

In typical muscular style, Mr Icahn said that if the board did not present this offer to shareholders, he would begin to seek support through mailings to them to remove TWA's current board. He said he would not accept any offers to buy back its holdings unless other TWA shareholders were offered the same terms.

Mr Icahn insists his motive is winning control of the carrier. Some analysts say that Mr Icahn bids TWA's current annual pre-tax cash flow of \$300 million very attractive. They added that he believes cash flow will increase by \$100 million annually if TWA

manages to reduce labour costs in current talks with its unions.

However, Mr Icahn may well be up to his old tricks of making a hostile raid in order to make a hefty profit on his investment when the company is bought out by another suitor or pays him to leave it alone. His most celebrated swoop was his attempt to take over Phillips Petroleum earlier this year, which ended up with the oil company undergoing a dramatic final restructuring and Mr Icahn walking away with a profit of more than \$75 million.

A fellow raider, Mr T. Boone Pickens, was not so lucky this week. Dubbed the "terror of the oil patch," Mr Pickens may have suffered a major loss in his failed bid to take over the Unocal Oil Company — perhaps as much as \$100 million.

EEC set to agree on product liability

From Derek Brown in Brussels

European Community member states are poised — after nearly 10 years of debate — to accept the principle of manufacturers' liability for defective products. Consumer group leaders said the development was "a victory... of historic importance."

But British and other sources warned that the latest EEC proposal for a directive on product liability is expected to go to the Council of Ministers next month following a last round of discussion on technical details.

The main effect will be to shift the onus of proof of liability away from complainants. In other words, any person injured by a defective product will have an automatic claim to compensation, and it will be up to the maker or supplier to prove they were not at fault. The new system will be similar to that in the United

States — long held by consumer groups in Britain as an example to follow.

The European umbrella group of consumer organisations, the Bureau Européen Des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC) has highlighted its long-running campaign on product liability with the plight of victims of the anti-rheumatism drug Opren, developed in the US by Eli Lilly and distributed in the UK by its British subsidiary.

BEUC estimates that until it was withdrawn, the drug was linked to between 60 and 100 deaths, with 600 other patients suffering severe side effects. But where US complainants had a legal right to compensation, British claims were rejected.

The EEC Commission estimates that accidents caused by products of all kinds are responsible for 30,000 deaths and 30 million injuries each year. Although only a fraction were caused by defective goods, even those victims have often been denied proper compensation.

Row after Bunzl offer for Brammer

By Andrew Cornelius

Bunzl, the packaging and distribution group, yesterday sparked a bitter row in the City after launching a £119.5 million takeover bid for Brammer, the engineering distribution company. Brammer, which last week mounted a £35 million bid of its own for Energy Services and Electronics, immediately complained to the City Takeover Panel that it had not been informed about the Bunzl offer until three hours after the stock market opened.

Mr Robert Ffoulkes-Jones, Brammer's finance director, said: "The first we knew was 12.20 pm, and a chat to bury the hatchet. We thought that they had gone away."

Bunzl is offering 60 of its new shares and £115 of convertible loan stock for every 100 Brammer shares, or a cash offer of 37p a share. Brammer shareholders said that it would "fight the bid all the way," and continue its attempt to take over ESE.

Brammer shares rose by 53p to 400p on the bid, while Bunzl shares fell back 8p to 465p.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US rates 'to rise'

HENRY KAUFMAN, the influential chief economist of Salomon Brothers, the US brokers, yesterday predicted a rise in interest rates and an end to the biggest economic growth in the US.

On a day when the dollar staged a recovery he said that he expected the US Federal Reserve would inject enough reserves into the system to push the rate of a real growth rate of 4 per cent or more, followed by a tightening again which will raise interest rates.

England, the Bank of England, is expected to cope with one of the biggest recent shortages in the banking system by injecting £1.7 billion into the markets, reinforcing criticism that its method of "managing the markets" has become unwieldy.

INSURANCE and banking invisible earnings in the City are expected to do well this year, though earnings from shipping and soft commodities is expected to be stagnant, according to a survey carried out for the British Invisible Exports Council. Total earnings are expected to grow well above the general level of inflation, with a rise of between 5 and 15 per cent. Lloyd's looks to a particularly good year in the marine sector, where invisible earnings are expected to rise by up to 30 per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN of Burnham Oil, Mr John Maibey, said in a statement yesterday that he had told Mr Gerald Heron, the chairman of the Heron Group, which has been making overtures to the oil company in recent weeks, that Burnham's board "could see no benefit in an amalgamation with Heron." He added that Heron had not made an offer.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 21st May 1985, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£150 million 10 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1992
£250 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 2005

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 21st May 1985 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 21st May 1985 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock ranking in all respects pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus, save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock. Copies of the prospectuses for the Stocks listed above, dated 11th November 1977 and 14th January 1983 respectively, may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992	21st February 1992	21st February 21st August
10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005	20th September 2005	20th March 20th September

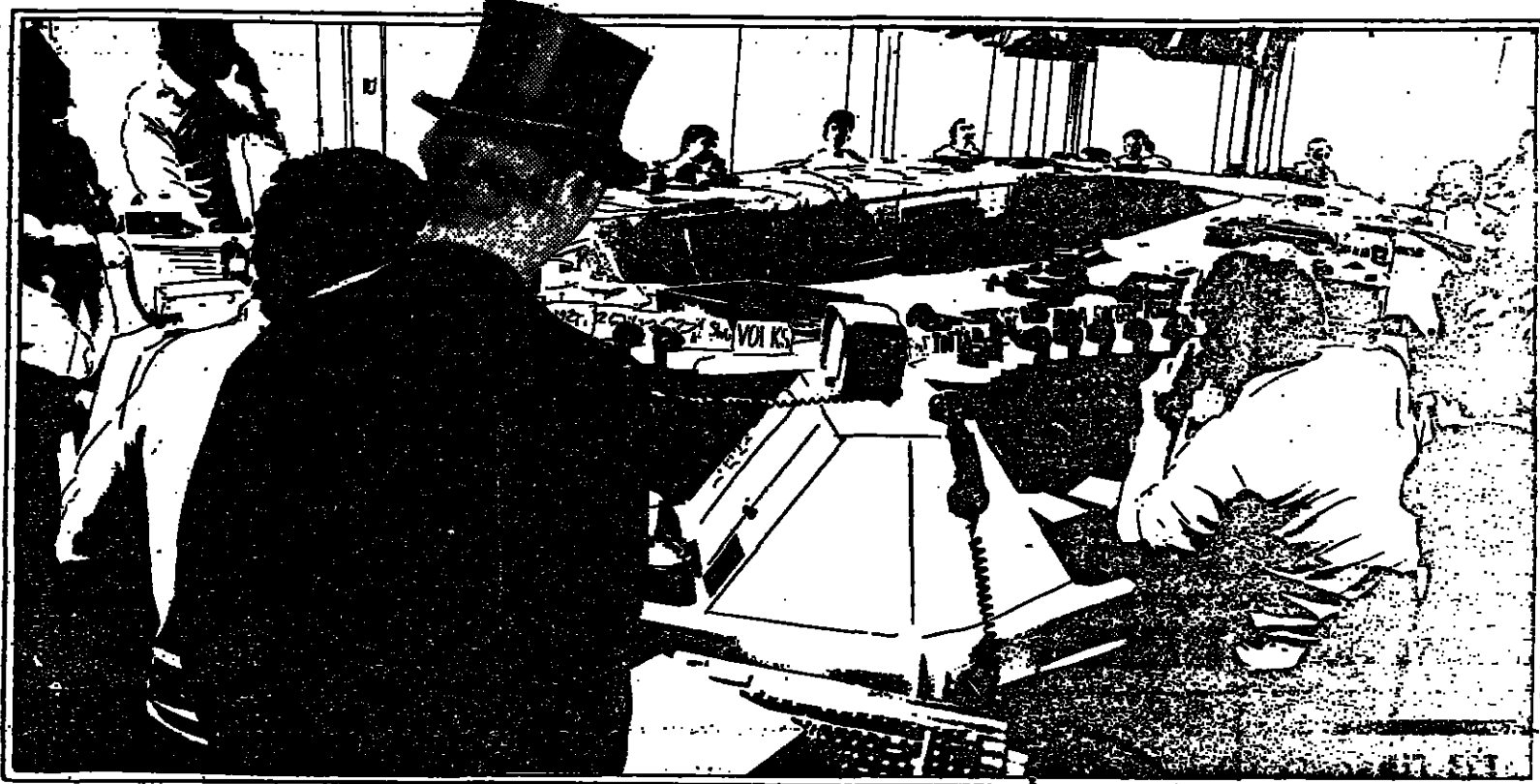
The further tranche of 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992 will rank for a full six months' interest on 21st August 1985. The further tranche of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 will rank for the interest payment of £8.5872 per cent due on 20th September 1985 on the existing Stock.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
21st May 1985

Montage by David Turner

Peter Rodgers and Margareta Pagano look at the brave new gilts market, and how the Bank is sorting out the men from the boys

Queuing for a place in a new, but not too exclusive, club



ASPIRING gilts dealers keen to spot potential rivals in the brave new gilts market should take time off to loiter outside the Royal Exchange — it has a great view of the Old Lady's front door.

For the interviews are now in full swing. Ever since the deadline closed there has been a constant stream of would-be candidates for the new primary dealerships pouring through the Bank of England's bronze doors.

Like prospective members of a new, but hopefully not too exclusive club, they are being hauled up before Mr Eddie George, the Bank director in command, to present their case for entry.

Mr George has the air of a man who has seen one too many. It is in his quiet, unassuming manner that he studies the applicants, the men who have the courage to become major gilts players have to persuade, or confirm, that they should be allowed into the market when doors open for business in October, 1985.

It is a brand new market, because the old structure in which two jobbers, Wedd Durlacher and Akroyd & Smithers, did most of the market-making is to be completely demolished. In its place will rise a New York-style government bond market, with a couple of dozen primary dealers making the market, and able, unlike the jobbers, to deal directly with clients under the Stock Exchange's planned new dual capacity system. They will also have the direct access to the Bank of England's gilts dealing which

is now the privilege of a handful of jobbers.

The range of potential players is wide. They include the big US and Japanese financial houses, UK banks and brokers, and perhaps eventually building societies, to the old-hand gilts jobbers like Akroyd & Smithers and Wedd Durlacher, who have dominated the market for years. To them the interviews should prove a mere formality, although they too are entering the great unknown.

With just a hint of humour, Mr George will still only concede there could be between eight and 100 applicants. Informed guesses are nearly as unenterprising but narrow the odds to between 25 and 60 at the very outside.

Interviews are following a set agenda with question-and-answer probes. They vary from how much capital will be put into the new dealerships, the type of gilts business they want to do, and corporate strategy. But the applicants are also having to give as precise details as possible about the proposed structure of their teams, the numbers of dealers, even names and addresses of salesmen.

If the Bank has reservations it will suggest the group goes back to the drawing board. Most will be given the chance to come back and try again. In the end, the Bank's chance to get the feel for the applicants' commitment, but are also giving players the opportunity to find out as much as they can about how the market is expected to evolve. For others it is a matter of routine.

one of the City's biggest gilts brokers, whose entry is almost certain, reported back that both sides ran out of questions within a few minutes.

There is no optimum number other than "quite large but not ridiculous". Applicants are not likely to be formally turned down other than for the most severe reasons, but the conversations may discourage enough to keep the number to a manageable 30 or so. On June 3 the Bank aims to publish the number blessed. Then, for a fortnight, market forces will reign supreme as candidates will be given the chance to withdraw if the competition they see looks so heavy that the only result will be the carnage, as firms struggle to share too small a business volume.

The Bank appears to be relaxed over what may look like a high level of potential foreign control over the government's fundraising. Happily, most of the main UK financial groups have expressed commitment to the market even though many are linked to US or other overseas firms. Morgan Grenfell, with its gilts broker, has access to capital from the German Deutsche Bank but would be considered a British market-maker.

But were the market to look as though it could be dominated by US brokers like Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, and Solomons, who have yet to make any UK marriages, it would have to look again at what constitutes foreign control. There is also the thorny issue of Japanese access. There is a growing view,

particularly in the Stock Exchange, that unless one country backs down on the reciprocity argument neither side is likely to budge. But by giving access there could be a lever for bargaining. For the moment it is not likely that the Japanese will be allowed in on this round, but they may be told to hang on and wait for the Bank to review the position in a year after the market starts trading. The Stock Exchange suspects that the Bank will pass the buck by making Japanese entry conditional on acceptance as members of the Exchange.

Most applicants are said to have expressed a desire to keep trading within the Stock Exchange floor, where over 80 per cent of the £23 billion a year business is at present turned over. Large deals are expected to eventually move off the floor for negotiations with price quotations over the phone.

But the retail end, high in volume but low in value, is likely to stay on the floor for the time being.

While the Bank will handle overall supervision it will liaise with the Stock Exchange which will monitor trading for investor protection purposes. Details are still being worked out, but come through official price lists published on an hourly basis. Since all contracts will be time stamped, the exchange should have an effective means to pick up any suspicious price, move, or malpractice.

So far the exchange and the Bank have resisted pressure from institutions, and

Whitehall to have a last trade tape, which reports on transactions electronically, as they happen. It will give away too much about the market-makers' gilts prices and positions, so other dealers could get a free ride, argues the exchange.

Investors need protection from incompetence or false pricing, but those sins are as nothing compared with the effects of a collapse of a major dealer, which is far from unthinkable when a brand new market starts with what will almost certainly be a surplus of capacity.

The Bank of England has published strict capital guidelines for primary dealers, inter-dealer brokers — who will make a market between primary dealers — and money brokers, who will help finance stock positions.

The requirements reflect the Bank's experience with supervising banks although the dealers will report daily rather than quarterly. Given the speed with which dealers move, compared with banks, lessons will have to be applied from the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers. The Bank of England is, for example, to give auditors a special dual responsibility to make some of their reports available to the Bank.

The Stock Exchange will remain responsible for the rest of the supervising function, including qualifications and professional standards. There is clearly a risk here of overlapping jurisdictions. The Bank believes that informal co-operation on the phone between itself and the

exchange would be more effective than setting up some formal co-ordinating committee.

Caution is the watchword, especially with the likely merger of the new gilts market with the discount market, which in theoretical terms is identical except that the participants deal in paper of very short maturity, including gilts which are near their redemption date. The discount market is the interface between the Bank of England and the banking system, and is used by the Bank as a tool of monetary policy to control interest rates and money supply.

The Bank likes the discount market because it allows it to avoid confrontations over interest rates with the big banks, so it is going slowly and carefully. It will not be merged with the gilts market for two to three years. Stage one of the evolution towards a merger was seen in the relaxation of ownership rules, which allowed a bank, Citicorp of the USA, for the first time to buy a discount house.

Stage two will allow the gilts dealers to develop their business into the discount market, but with a pricing handicap in the form of stricter capital requirements. Stage three will be to bring the two markets together, so that one of the most famous sights in the City, the hot-hatted bill broker, may finally become one of the hot-pollit — just another bond dealer, instead of one of the aristocrats of the Square Mile.

The oldest thing about this caution is that for the

customer of conglomerates which own both primary dealers and discount houses the two markets will be indistinguishable from day one. The Bank is prepared to let a single person or dealing desk operate continuously in the gilts and bill market.

The condition would be that the different types of transaction are recorded in the names of either the gilts firm or the discount house, which would be separately capitalised. The customer need never know.

A second City tradition at risk is the tap stock, by which the Bank dribbles out gilts to the market when it wants. There are proposals to move to a US style auction system, ending a practice dating back to the late 17th century. No decision is likely until the new market is running, and traditionalists will be delighted to know that a search is on for a compromise.

With as many as 30 primary dealers and £750 million of capital to back them, the biggest risk to the new market is overcrowding. Add up the market shares they each need to break even, and you can be sure that it will have far above 100 per cent.

Yet there are reasons to think that volume of trading may go down not up. The Bank dismisses estimates that the end of bond washing announced in the Budget could hit volume by 25 per cent, but even a few per cent would be in the wrong direction.

The main hope to avoid rapid and bloody withdrawals from the market, is that the

new dealers will much more actively promote business to raise volume. At the same time, the amount of gilts trading within the Stock Exchange itself, and there are great hopes that the large number of foreign participants in the market will raise overseas interest in buying gilts.

The new inter-dealer brokers are also expected to raise the amount of gilts trading within the Stock Exchange itself, and there are great hopes that the large number of foreign participants in the market will raise overseas interest in buying gilts.

But what about that precious resource, the British public with savings to invest? Surprisingly, 75 per cent of bargains in gilts are already done by small investors, although this is only 10 per cent of the volume. But after British Telecom, the government and the Bank of England clearly have to sell more gilts to small investors, and initially are looking to the clearing banks to devise cheap ways of marketing stock through their branches.

If the banks fail to respond, an intriguing possibility is being discussed: beefing up the National Savings Stock Register, through which gilts can be bought for low dealing costs at Post Offices.

One way would be to speed the system up by computer terminals in Post Offices. The irritating delay of several days would be eliminated. So far, as yet, the Post Office has not been seen to see Eddie George.

The Burton way is fronted with gallerias

Mary Brasier on the transformation of the British high street

THE MESSAGE for the shopper in yesterday's £455 million bid for Debenhams from the Burton Group is that the traditional department store is dead. But the high street lives. What we are going to hear a lot more about if this bid succeeds is the "galleria concept".

Debenhams' rambling retail floors will be transformed into small shops-within-shops, selling limited and specific products from cashiers to dressers. An integrated collection of highly focused specialist stores under one roof with a clearly-targeted range of merchandise is the range of Mr Ralph Halpern, describes it.

Gallerias started in Milan, were adopted by the US and look set to become the fashionable import this year to the UK. They are shopping malls, but given the kind of design and polish in the past reserved for exclusive stores. What Mr Halpern and Sir Terence Conran are planning is in fact a rescue of the British high street.

Plans by the retail trade's top names to move out of town have threatened to drain some of the life blood away from traditional shopping centres. Cramped sites and lack of car parking facilities have done most of the damage. The combined efforts of Burton and Habitat Moterecare to create a new shopping environment in Debenhams stores might just be the shot in the arm the town centre needs.

"Through design, style and excellence of presentation an environment will be created which will bring the excitement back to large surface area shopping," Burton said yesterday.

"British retailing has been slow to adapt. There are lots

of examples where big store areas have been made to work profitably. This will give the high street impetus", Mr Halpern added.

The transformation of Debenhams stores into gallerias will include from the outset some of the UK's top retail names. The Habitat and Burton stores will bring in shops like Mothercare, Top Man and Principles, if the bid succeeds. Harris Queensway, which has a joint venture with Debenhams, is likely to join in with electricals and furnishing outlets, and there is talk of food retailers.

The idea is a logical extension of the rise of the specialist store in the UK over the past three years. Shops with professionally packaged images like Next have stolen the ground from under the feet both of department stores and variety stores like Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores and Littlewoods. All of them have had to reach for design firms to remodel and

re-launch their stores and their products.

What the specialist shops did not have until now was space. There are now Next shops within a few yards of each other in the City of London because the original outlet was cramped. Every lunchtime Good town centre pitches are hard to come by and as a result expensive.

The Debenhams deal offers the specialist stores 4.5 million square feet of selling area in 67 locations across the country in which to vent their design ideas and sell their products.

Habitat will increase its total selling space by nearly a quarter and both groups believe that they can use the space more profitably than Debenhams. In addition, Habitat has a lucrative contract under its belt to revamp the department stores. Sir Terence estimates a cost of 10p per square foot just to brighten the decor.

The average size of a Debenhams store — 67,000 square feet — means that both groups can also expand

into new retail areas, although product ranges will be kept quite small to maintain the sense of identity of the stores. Hamleys is one part of the existing Debenhams group which will be developed as a specialist shop.

For Burton, Debenhams offers an opportunity to move into a different market. Its chains are currently aimed at the 15-30 age range, but the profitable market to enter is the over 30s market.

"The acquisition of Debenhams will allow the expansion of Burton chains such as Principles, which already meet the needs of such customers and the development of new formats aimed at this, the fastest growing sector of the clothing market," said Mr Halpern. The 25-plus market is twice the size of the 15-24 market.

Taking over Debenhams is intended to make Mr Halpern a more successful retailer, not just a powerful landlord.

Debenhams has repeatedly failed to realise its potential,

Burton claims. It has been the City's favourite takeover target for months but chairman, Mr Robert Thornton, rejected an approach in January from Habitat because he said it had nothing new to offer.

Attempts to revitalise Debenhams have been slow under the Thornton team, though. The joint venture with Harris Queensway which took over Debenhams electricals and carpets departments has not delivered instant improvements. Debenhams revealed earlier this month that the carpets side had in fact lost money.

The key to the more radical Burton and Habitat plan is that Debenhams will not just be the sum of many innocent parts, but that each part will have a separate and very strong identity. It is the combination of specialisation and design which Ralph Halpern and Sir Terence are banking on.

If it works as well as individual shops like Next, and Principles both on and off the high street will be the richer for it.

Mounting worries as the markets streak ahead



INVESTMENT
Robin Stoddart

IT MAY only be whispered in Whitehall and is appearing in black and white in just a few occasional droppings from the City's high-flying pigeons, but Britain's unemployment, money supply, inflation and interest rates are beginning to stand out like a sore thumb. The boom from recent financial trends in the United States will only add up to the sting later, as world trade slows down.

The consumer boom, which is more pronounced and long-running in Britain than almost anywhere else, has at

last got through to home manufacturers. Luckily, export sales to the US and some other countries have been buoyant for about a year and capital investment has also been strong. So the rise in average living standards that the North Sea oil bonanza ushered in, after huge investment and some ill-effects, is evident to all, if not shared by everyone.

Mrs Thatcher's boast that inflation was being beaten, and that this would lead to greater competitiveness and prosperity, will not stand much repetition, this summer. Last month's 2.1 per cent rise in retail prices was above most estimates and since it was among the worst since 1974, the seasonal excuses barely wash. Lower mortgage rates, which are on the cards for early autumn after the reduction in dollar interest rates and rise in the pound this week, will amend the situation a little. But the main hallmark of this administration is no longer sound money, but

OH company profits are easily the biggest, with only those of public sector companies that are in process of privatisation anywhere near what the integrated seven-

sisters can command, after they have handed over hefty extraction levies to the Treasury.

It is an odd coincidence that the oil companies have succeeded in making petrol prices increase stiffly just when the sterling oil price has taken quite a heavy knock. Refiners' downstream earnings are now better than for many a year. But they have boosted inflation.

Neither consumer spending, nor corporate profits have been particularly significant features of President Reagan's boom. The rising tide in the dollar was until recently the most prominent aspect, along with the fairly widespread economic advance. Lower unemployment was a big plus, especially by comparison with the situation in Europe, the yawning trade gap is a mixed blessing, and the budget deficit an international liability.

Give or take a few million tons of coal or an accelerating decline in the oil price and the US economy could soon show a faster growth rate than Britain's and maintain it for the foreseeable future. The reduction in its key interest rate signals the Federal Reserve's desire to prevent a serious eco-

nomie slowdown. In spite of the easier dollar, inflation has shown little sign of reviving and the money targets and central intervention are nothing like as awkward as they are in London.

If top flight borrowers can soon obtain loans from US banks at a shade below 10 per cent, the economy should gain some stimulus. A weaker dollar and higher consumer spending, following tax rebates, may be more important, along with the upturn in high technology sales. Certainly, the first-quarter annual growth rate revised down to a mere 0.7 per cent, should be better over the rest of the year.

Selling Federal loans will be made easier by the sustained rise in bond prices. Any lessening of foreign investment, which was even more pronounced in its effect on the dollar than in its contribution to the budget, will be offset to the extent that the deficit may at last be coming under some sort of control.

On the other hand the constant trickle of tablets of all kinds from the Bank of England has limited the beneficial impact of the easier trend of world interest rates on British Government stocks, even paring some of

the gains in longer-dated industrial issues. When deposit rates are higher than there is no obvious incentive to invest, though the boat may be missed when interest rates are reduced. The real return on conventional government stocks has narrowed considerably, to the point where it is often negligible for the higher-rate taxpayer.

That monetary policy has been idiosyncratic in the extreme, rather than prudent, stern but complying with market forces — is now being more widely recognised. The Bank of England is intervening daily and on a huge scale to hold down market interest rates and its bill mountain is now passing the valuation put on British Telecom, easily the highest-capitalised issue on the market.

Quite how the Bank will extricate itself is unclear, but it is not going to be through an early cessation of new issues, except briefly during privatisation sales.

The battle against inflation will have to be maintained one way or another if any credibility is to be retained. But higher interest rates solve nothing. Fractional reductions in Government rates may be possible in a few weeks if sterling

remains strong against Continental currencies. Since the dollar is showing resistance to a move to lower levels and the international debt situation is becoming more threatening again, a continuing move to easier dollar rates is essential. Otherwise world economic growth may peter out rapidly, with exporters to the US worst hit.

Protectionism will become a serious threat if recession does rear its head next year. Japan's surplus and the Common Market Agricultural Policy are the worst culprits and the US, though far from innocent, has the best grounds for complaint at present, because it has the worst trade deficit.

If the international scene does turn nasty, currencies and gold, rather than share markets, will command the stage. The move to record share prices in the United States, Britain, Germany and several other countries reflects the ascendancy of capitalism, revived by high profits and lower taxation.

The German mark and local and international stocks in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Italy, along with some mining issues, may be the safest havens when other areas and commodities come under pressure.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Copies of the 1984 annual report are available from:

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
D-6700 Ludwigshafen



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON Insurance plc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc was held yesterday at the Head Office of the Company in Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.2.

Lord Aldington, the Chairman, presided and in addressing the Meeting stated —

"Although we do not publish quarterly results you will know that it is my custom at the Annual General Meeting to tell shareholders of our experience since the end of the year. I need hardly remind you that the estimated results for one quarter cannot be taken as a reliable indication of the outcome of the full year.

At Home, the results have been badly affected by the exceptional losses from the severe winter weather at the beginning of the year, estimated to have cost £22M, as compared with the combined Sun Alliance and Phoenix extreme weather losses of £19.5M in 1984. Motor experience was also poor and, overall, there was an increased underwriting loss from our Home business.

Despite an improvement in the U.S.A. there was a further worsening in the overseas underwriting result; in particular, Canada and Australia produced significantly heavier losses — in Australia this was largely due to the January storms and floods in Brisbane, which are estimated to have cost £3.2M.

In aggregate, the underwriting losses have exceeded our investment income and life profits and we estimate, therefore, that we have again incurred a pre-tax loss for the first quarter."

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman, Directors and Staff was proposed by Sir Timothy Bevan.

Four to note for the field

IN ACTION... The author directing operations

had glandular fever but fell off a flagpole in Portugal and will not resume competition until next month, missing this weekend's UK Championships. Even Cameron Sharp, the 1992 European 200 metres silver medal winner, has had problems and although he ran a 400 metres relay leg at Grangemouth last week he will not contest the UK title in Antrim.

MPs' team criticises Government on famine aid

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government has been strongly criticised for failing to provide fresh funds for the African famine relief operation in a report from the Commons foreign affairs committee.

The 359-page document, the result of some nine months' work and journeys into the Sahel, largely bore out the view that the British public responded to the crisis with \$67 million of "new money" in the form of voluntary donations. Whitehall's response of

\$69 million was a book transfer at the expense of other projects in the aid programme. Mrs Thatcher has insisted that the amount and the projected \$95 million in the current financial year, must come from within the budget.

The committee, chaired by Sir Anthony Kershaw, a former Tory minister, draws a sharp contrast between the generous response of the public and the Government's ruling that no new money should be provided.

"We consider it is not ac-

ceptable that almost the entire costs of the UK response to the crisis should fall on the previously agreed budget of the Overseas Development Administration," says the report. "The emergency is of such a degree that it must be regarded as a new situation and substantial new money should be provided to help with it. The ODA budget should be increased to accommodate the exceptional expenditure, so that funds are not diverted from longer-term development work."

The committee began work

immediately after the first of the horrifying television reports from Ethiopia on British screens in July 1984. Sir Anthony and his 10-man committee of government and opposition MPs repeated the option of a short, quick report for the Commons in favour of a more detailed examination with trips in the field during parliamentary recesses. They travelled to the western end of the Sahel, built in Mali and Senegal, as well as crossing devastated parts of Ethiopia and the Sudan up to the Chad border.

The team discovered that Whitehall had imposed a rigid ceiling of 110,000 tons of food aid from Britain, per year, and had revised to build about the commitment of 1.2 million tons of grain for the drought-hit countries of Africa turned out to be false. More than half was "old grain," like Mrs Thatcher's old money. One third of the total was not EEC grain but amounts already pledged by individual member states. Another 300,000 tons was already pledged under the EEC's "regular food aid programme."

It was clear that most of the fresh grain was not from Common Market stockpiles, but from non-institutional sources due to the lengthy EEC procedures otherwise involved.

The report concludes: "The committee expresses its profound disquiet at the position whereby large stocks of grain, grown and held at considerable public expense, cannot be made readily available for emergency aid. We recommend that the British Government initiate urgent action to make this possible in any future emergency."

Kinnock defeats Benn over call for change

By John Carvel,
Political Correspondent

An attempt by Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer to open a new debate on organisational change in the Labour Party was defeated by the national executive yesterday. The party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, rebuffed Mr Benn for saying that the forthcoming Labour/TUC joint economic policy statement contained "violently anti-socialist elements".

The incidents demonstrate Mr Kinnock's increasing hold over the executive and growing self-censorship in dealing with the party's acerbic exchange. Mr Benn came after a verbal report on Monday's meeting of the Labour Party/TUC liaison committee which considered a draft statement on economic and social policy.

Mr Benn said that it was an inadequate and incredible document which even Mr Francis Pym could have found acceptable. He criticised references to building a new consensus, to the place of market forces in investment decisions and to the need to face economic realities.

Mr Kinnock said that such remarks could not go unchallenged. There was nothing unsocialist about seeking to build a new consensus to direct investment or facing economic realities. Most workers had to face economic reality every day.

Mr Benn and Mr Heffer had tried to start a debate about the party's strategy and organisation and submitted a lengthy paper criticising the NEC's loss of power in the party.

Its proposals included a constitutional conference similar to the one held when the party was founded in 1918, which would draw the women's movement, ethnic communities, the peace movement and other appropriate special interest groups into affiliation.

The paper also suggested that Labour cabinets and shadow cabinets might be chosen by the same electoral college procedure which elects the leader and deputy leader. It recommended more campaigning around struggles against the Government and attacked purges in the party.

Mr Benn and Mr Heffer had been trying to persuade the NEC to refer their document to its committees and to prepare a response to it. This was rejected by 14 votes to 12.

Mr Michael Meacher and Mr David Blunkett supported Mr Benn despite their growing accord with Mr Kinnock on his policy approach. They argued that the document should be allowed to proceed even if it did not endorse its contents.

However, Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, called it "an infinitely trivial paper." A decision to send it through the party machinery might further lead to a loss of endorsement.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, told Mr Kinnock last night that unless he was prepared to consider power-sharing and proportional representation the Alliance and the Tories would form a minority government in the event of a hung Parliament.

Teachers insist on pay deal priority

By John Fairhall,
Education Editor

Teachers' leaders said last night that they will not consider future pay structures until the 1985 claim has been settled.

The offers of extra money for 1986-7 made by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary in return for an agreement on contractual duties and promotion indicated some movement by the government, said Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

"But these are all matters for the future. They cannot be discussed before we have a settlement for 1985."

The timing of Sir Keith's proposals just ahead of today's resumed negotiations, was not helpful, said Mr McAvoy.

The last Burnham Committee meeting, last Wednesday, broke up with the promise of an improved offer today, generally assumed to mean a figure of 6 per cent.

"If they now offer us less than 6 per cent it will be an admission of the employers having monstrously misjudged the position," Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said last night.

By yesterday three quarters of the counties had replied to a letter from the Association of county councils asking at what level the employers should settle.

A few have said they could go beyond 5 per cent but 75 per cent said they could pay only 4.5 or at the very most 5 per cent.

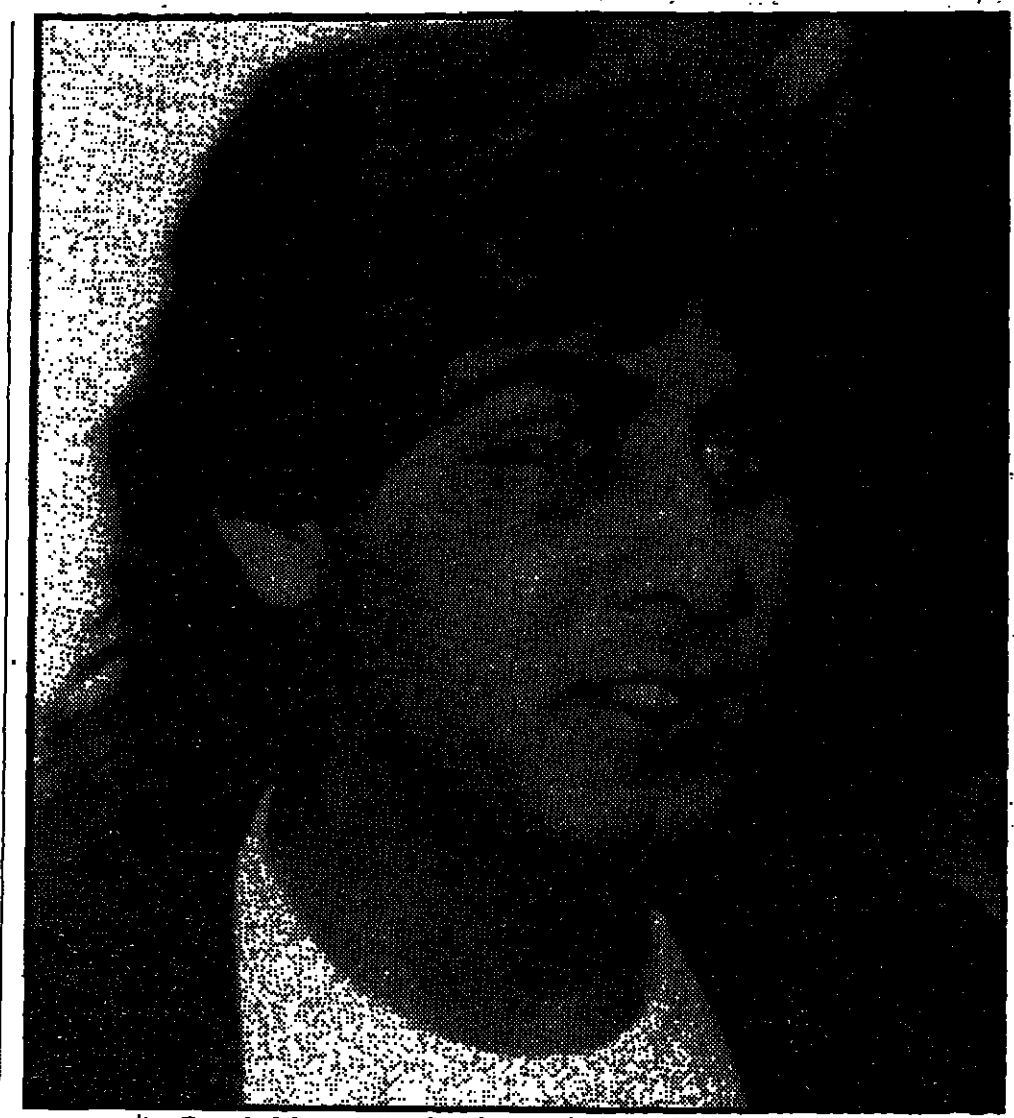
At the Conservative women's conference in London yesterday, the Prime Minister fiercely criticised the teachers' strike action and warmly commended Sir Keith's new initiative.

Mrs Thatcher said the Government recognised that the teachers wanted to earn more money but said their average earnings had risen since 1979 by 9 per cent more than inflation. "So teachers have not lost out under this Government."

Mr Smithies said the Prime Minister was exercising her well-known talent for manipulating figures.

It was "singularly hypocritical" for Mrs Thatcher to take a 1979 base line—the year teachers had their Clegg award of more than 20 per cent.

Pupils at risk, page 3.



Parvaz Khan at the Old Bailey after the alleged incident

Asian 'beaten up at court'

Continued from page one

"Inevitably there are going to be great tensions between the defendants and the prison officers after what had happened."

Judge Dennison reserved judgment on this until today. He granted an adjournment to allow Kahn and his solicitor to go to nearby St Bartholomew's hospital. "There are bound to be two sides to any story. It may have to be investigated but I do not make any order about this at the moment."

The prosecution, led by Mr Michael Kallisher, QC, had barely begun its case before the court was interrupted by the court heard only that the case was about "a series of violent confrontations between white and Asian youths in the East End of London on April 7, 1984."

The other six Asian defendants are Amir Ali, aged 21, Zafar Kahn, Parvaz's brother, aged 18, Mohammed Hanif, aged 18, Bahadur Kahn, aged

22, Athar Chaudri, aged 19, and Jothi Rajappan, aged 17. All except Chaudri are charged with affray. All the Kahn brothers, Rajappan, Bahadur Kahn and Hanif are charged with criminal damage, and the brothers and Rajappan are also charged with possessing offensive weapons. Chaudri is charged with having a squalid with the intent to cause criminal damage, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

Two of the white accused, Roy Lellor, aged 26, and his brother Robert, aged 21, are charged with affray and common assault. The third, Stuart Young, aged 22, is charged with assault.

The prosecution was unable to open its case during the morning owing to the high number of challenges by prospective jurors. From a panel of 170, 87 jurors were named before a jury comprising two

Afro-Caribbean women, a Sikh man, six white men and three white women was sworn in. Defence counsel for the seven Asians employed a total of 21 challenges—all against whites—and those acting for the whites used four, all against blacks. The prosecution rejected a record 29 jurors, all white, before the last, one of the black women, was sworn in.

After the swearing-in but before the case began, all defence counsel for the Asians applied unsuccessfully for a new jury. The argument that the jury's racial composition meant it would not be able adequately to understand the background to the case and thus to guarantee a fair trial.

The judge earlier asked whether any of the jurors was a member of, or a sympathiser with an extremist organisation, naming the National Front, the Revolutionary Communist Party as examples.

The hearing continues today.

Alliance, Labour share 6pc lead

Continued from page one

The Alliance taking 33.5 per cent, the Conservatives 33.2 per cent and Labour 32.3 per cent in the constituency where all three main parties won 53 per cent.

The simplest explanation for the sudden Alliance surge is the high profile enjoyed by the Liberals and the SDP since the county council elections on May 2. Although their share of the vote was not particularly impressive—about 23.5 per cent—they have been in the public eye after winning the balance of power in many counties and extensive media coverage.

It has always been the Alliance contention that the opinion polls normally understate their support, and when voters are prompted or reminded of the existence of the Alliance, as in a by-election, their vote rises rapidly.

This latest poll may be a dramatic demonstration of this but, if so, it would imply that this Alliance surge will soon begin to recede.

Although Mr Kinnock appears to be uncomfortable at the thought of Mr Steel and Dr Owen breathing down his neck, the Labour Party has no real need to panic over the Alliance's strong showing, which would in fact improve Labour's chances of beating the Conservatives in an election.

The polling was carried out between May 9 and May 13, ending on the same date as the polls by Gallup and by MORI in the Sunday Times, but it does not appear to bear out the results of the MORI survey, which put the Alliance in third place with 28 per cent behind the Tories at 34 and Labour at 36.

● The Guardian Marplan Index was based on a tightly-controlled quota sample of 1,451 adults aged 18-plus in 103 randomly selected constituencies. Interviewing was conducted face to face between May 9 and May 13.

Rajiv visit

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is expected to visit Britain before the end of the year, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons yesterday.

Mr Jenkin's views echoed those of the Environment Department Inspector, Mr Stephen Marks, who last year conducted a public inquiry into the proposals which have been hotly opposed not only by conservationists but also by much of the City and by the Prince of Wales.

● It was mistakenly reported in the Guardian yesterday that Richard Rogers was planning for the new Lloyd's of London building were rejected by planners. In fact the building is nearing completion.

Mr Jenkin's views echoed those of the Environment Department Inspector, Mr Stephen Marks, who last year conducted a public inquiry into the proposals which have been hotly opposed not only by conservationists but also by much of the City and by the Prince of Wales.

● It was mistakenly reported in the Guardian yesterday that Richard Rogers was planning for the new Lloyd's of London building were rejected by planners. In fact the building is nearing completion.

Steelworkers back levy

From Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

The steelworkers' union has become the second union to support the retention of a political fund in a ballot of its members. An announcement expected today by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will show that members have voted by a substantial majority in favour of a political levy.

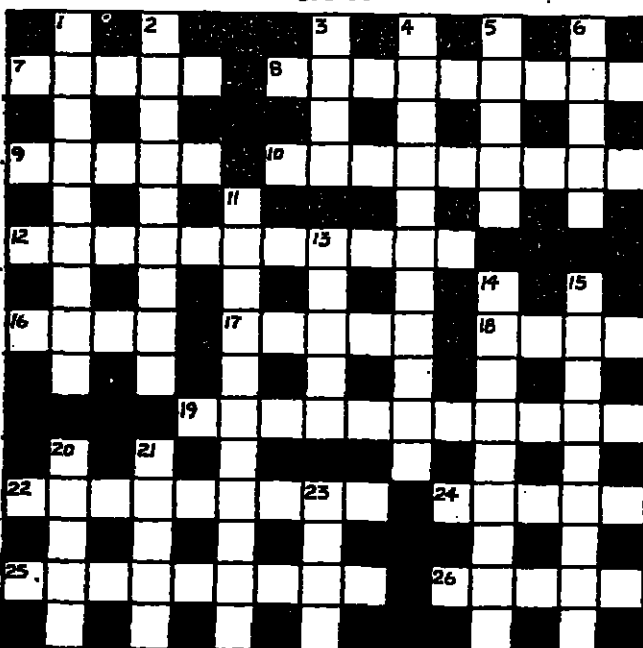
Counting began yesterday, but the indications last night were that rank-and-file members of the ISTC felt strongly

that a political fund is important in presenting its case in Parliament, the decision by the ISTC follows closely on that of the print union, Sagat '82, which voted earlier this month for the retention of a political fund.

The only union already to vote which may have doubt about the future of the political fund is the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff, where balloting may go on until the final day of March next year in an attempt to encourage members to vote.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,243

JANUS



- ACROSS
- Being stippled is crazy! (5).
 - Blimey! Mr McGregor turning Communist! How's that for a spicy item? (9).
 - Very much like a French artist (5).
 - Measure taken to smell out a hypocrite (9).
 - Kind of form to show diligence (11).
 - Country encircled by their antagonists (4).
 - Very large object rejected at one Italian port (8).
 - Leave by return transport (4).
- DOWN
- Unwisely make insinuations about coarse book (11).
 - Protect worker when accused (9).
 - Glad model is dim (5).
 - Press drinks on soldier (9).
 - Gathered data about some calculator (5).
 - He smiles on losing merchandise (wine) (4, 5).
 - Shocking for novice in the beginning (9).
 - Ray close attention to the smallest of openings (4).
 - Weapon or badge of an actor? (4, 7).
 - Fruit-girl (5).
 - China was first to come up with measure (5).
 - Provide with loan for house (11).
 - Coach-race containing turn around to right (5).
 - Criteria that may be flagging (9).
 - Offer to get round trouble with rabbit (4-5).
 - Bar's turn to make merry (5).
 - Drank up at headquarters (5).
 - Doctor writing up article on ointment (4).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,242

ACROSS
1. DOTTED
2. BLOODY
3. FRENCH
4. SNIFF
5. DILIGENCE
6. COUNTRY
7. LARGE
8. ITALY
9. LEAVE
10. MEASURE
11. FORM
12. KIND
13. COUNTRY
14. LARGE
15. ITALY
16. LEAVE
17. MEASURE
18. FORM
19. KIND
20. COUNTRY
21. LARGE
22. ITALY
23. LEAVE
24. MEASURE
25. FORM
26. KIND

PM gives no quarter to 'fainthearts' Debenhams £480m offer

Continued from page one

is clear that Mrs Thatcher regards Mr Eynon's group as a sop and feels no need to make any direct concessions.

But yesterday's speech confirmed that Mrs Thatcher will yield no ground to critics who express nervousness about her radicalism. She told the Tory women, who gave her the expected rousing reception, that she would not waver.

Colin Brown adds: Viscount

Whitelaw answered criticism from the Tory women about the Government's failure to get its policy message across and warned wets in the party that no amount of good presentation could paper over cracks and divisions.

Improvements were being made to the party's publicity machinery, including more ministerial visits to constituencies. But he told the women that they had to do more. "Are we all hitting back at the opponent on the doorstep

and their well-organised campaign against our leader, Mrs Thatcher?"

"Perhaps I am as entitled as anyone in the party to say that of course the leader has to take all the sniping and all the brickbats at times of difficulties and disappointments. But when you think of what our country, our party, our world owes to her for her outstanding courage and determination, then how petty and niggling criticisms on the doorstep are."

Continued from page one

His proposal to merge with Debenhams to pioneer the redesign of their stores was turned down in January. Now he stands to take 900,000 square feet of sales space in the equity stake and the lucrative design contracts.

Burton is offering three of its ordinary shares and £2.50p in cash for every five Debenhams shares. The terms were described as "totally in-

adequate" by Debenhams. The Debenhams board insisted that it is already introducing the Galleria concept in the US. Mr Halpern maintains that Debenhams's trading performance is "a disaster" by Burton's standards. Debenhams made pre-tax profits of £40.7 million in the year to February, while Burton group's profits stood at £54.4 million in the latest year to September 1984, generating twice the profits of Debenhams per square foot of selling space.

Mr Jenkin's views echoed those of the Environment Department Inspector, Mr Stephen Marks, who last year conducted a public inquiry into the proposals which have been hotly opposed not only by conservationists but also by much of the City and by the Prince of Wales.

● It was mistakenly reported in the Guardian yesterday that Richard Rogers was planning for the new Lloyd's of London building were rejected by planners. In fact the building is nearing completion.

THE WEATHER

Showers, some sun

A SHALLOW ridge of high pressure will build over S districts as depressions move towards NW Scotland.

London, SE, Cent S, E, Cent N and NE. Mild, mainly cloudy with some rain. Max 12-14C (54-57F). Wind mainly SW, light to moderate.

W Midlands, SW and NW England, Wales, Lake and NW Scotland. Mild, mainly cloudy with some rain. Max 12-14C (54-57F). Wind mainly SW, light to moderate.

Derby, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Shetland, Orkney, N Ireland, Mainly cloudy with some rain. Max 12-14C (54-57F). Wind mainly SW, light to moderate.

Abertawe, Cent Midlands, Weymouth, NE and NW Scotland, Shetland, Orkney, N Ireland, Mainly cloudy with some rain. Max 12-14C (54-57F). Wind mainly SW, light to moderate.

Outlook: Unsettled, showers or longer periods of rain especially in N. Some dry brighter spells. Becoming warm on Saturday.

AROUND THE WORLD

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 pm yesterday.

Area	Wind	Temp	Cloud	Pressure
Algeria	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Algiers	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Amman	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Baghdad	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Bahia	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Bombay	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Buenos Aires	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Calcutta	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Cairo	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Cardiff	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Chennai	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Columbo	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Dhaka	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Dublin	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Frankfurt	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Glasgow	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Hong Kong	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
London	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Lyons	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Madras	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Manila	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Medan	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Mumbai	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Nairobi	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Rangoon	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Reykjavik	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Rome	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Singapore	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Sourabaya	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Taipei	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Tokyo	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Yokohama	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 pm yesterday.

Area	Wind	Temp	Cloud	Pressure
London	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Cardiff	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Belfast	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Edinburgh	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Glasgow	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Manchester	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Newcastle	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Nottingham	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Sheffield	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Sunderland	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Wolverhampton	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Wrexham	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
York	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012

Outlook: Unsettled, showers or longer periods of rain especially in N. Some dry brighter spells. Becoming warm on Saturday.

WEST COAST

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 pm yesterday.

Area	Wind	Temp	Cloud	Pressure
London	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Cardiff	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Belfast	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Edinburgh	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Glasgow	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Manchester	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Newcastle	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Nottingham	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Sheffield	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Sunderland	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Wolverhampton	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
Wrexham	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012
York	12-14	18-20	1-2	1012

SATellite Predictions

The figures give an order, time, direction and strength of wind, rain, snow, fog, etc.

Windsor	12	17	42	42	1012
Cardiff	12	16	42	42	1012
Kilmore	12	16	42	42	1012
Aberdeen	12	16	42	42	1012
St Andrews	12	16	42	42	1012
Edinburgh	12	16	42	42	1012
Manchester	12	16	42	42	1012
Newcastle	12	16	42	42	1012
Belfast	12	16	42	42	1012

SATELLITE PREDICTIONS

The Clouds will be very thin and visibility, when rising, maximum elevation and direction of celling. An asterisk denotes entering or leaving surface.

London
C: 2659 22-27-23.00 NW 15N
NNE (May 24) 0.30-0.30 WNW 22NNE
ENE
C: 5429 22-27-23.25 W 20SW 10N
C: 1210 22-27-23.25 W 10W 10N
N: (May 24) 1.30-1.42 N 31 NNE NE 10N
C: 1359 22-27-23.27 SW 33W
NNE
C: 1609 22-27-23.13 N 75SE
NNE (May 24) 0.47-0.50 WNW 15W
SWW
S: 247 22-23.34 W 20SW 15W

Map showing weather fronts and cloud cover percentages over the British Isles. The map includes labels for various regions and weather systems.